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Major and Blair hit campaign trail

Leaders meet the voters in crucial seats

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

JOHN MAJOR climbed back onto his soapbox. Tony Blair went vote hunting in the constituency that could put him into Downing Street. After all the speculation, the button for a May 1 general election had finally been pressed.

The party leaders wasted no time, and both were on the campaign trail within hours of the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday morning that Parliament would rise for Easter on Friday and not return until May 7.

Mr Major went to two marginal seats in Luton, where he confronted demonstrators and hecklers who tried to shout him down and insisted that over the next seven weeks he would be "there in the middle of the crowd". He received an im-

mediate boost from Baroness Thatcher, who emerged from her London office to say: "I am fighting for Prime Minister Major and I am fighting with every effort I can bring forth."

Mr Major said that Labour were straddling a "chasm of credibility" and urged his party to help him to tip them into the "yawning abyss below". Clearly, he said, the contest was "winnable" and that he would win it after a "fun" campaign.

With education certain to figure large in the weeks ahead, Mr Blair was symbolically visiting a school in south London when the election announcement came. He then travelled west to meet voters in Gloucester — Labour's 46th target seat and the one where victory would point to an overall majority. He declared that Britain could do better under Labour with better

schools, better hospitals and less violence on the streets.

"We are on the verge of a new millennium. There is so much talent, resource and energy among its people," he said. "I want a new government to come in with different values and different priorities to lead a national renewal which will be at the heart of everything we want to achieve."

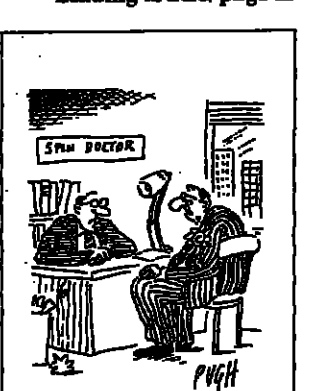
Mr Blair matched Mr Major's assertion that it would be a meet-the-people campaign and rejected "the presidential style of glitz and glamour" that has been predicted.

But later, in an unguarded moment after a formal interview with BBC's *Newsnight*, he was caught on camera saying: "Now the great campaign has begun, we can carry on with this for another six weeks which will drive us all absolutely crazy."

Paddy Ashdown headed for Taunton, welcomed the election and said that people wanted the chance to tell Mr Major what they thought of his Government's "broken promises, incompetence and divisions". Last night he told a reception of the Board of Deputies of British Jews that for 45p per week on tax, class sizes could be cut, teachers and pupils given the books and equipment they needed and top quality nursery education provided for every three and four-year-old.

The election was suddenly Continued on page 2, col 1

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"Give it to me straight, Doc — how long have we got?"



John Major got back on his soapbox (below) to address voters at Luton yesterday, where he braved heckling from protesters. The Prime Minister promised a "fun campaign"

Tea with the Queen then back on his soapbox in middle England

AFTER tea with the Queen it must have made quite a contrast. In Luton town centre yesterday John Major pitched himself into a walkabout which teetered perilously close to mayhem as a band of hardcore militant-style mobsters teamed up with the usual spotty student-demon brigade — "grants suck" — to offer the Prime Minister and the electorate a nostalgic reminder of the way we were 18 years ago.

"How much did Major pay these people?" I heard a BBC reporter asking colleagues. There was something sweetly amateurish about the whole thing. To the trilling of a mobile phone and the heckles of beer-swilling English youths, an 18th-century kind of electioneering met a 20th-century election, perhaps our last.

As news of Mr Major's swoop on middle England spread, more than a thousand had gathered. Leaping from his green Jaguar near a shop called Going Places, the Prime Minister was quickly engulfed in an extraordinary scratch-

team of Tory ladies, gamely cheering "Hurrah!", thin-faced yobs with shoulder bags, a posse from the Referendum Party — elderly women with sour lips — and a gathering mass of inquisitive shoppers.

Mr Major does what he always does in moments of tension. He started patting people. After a few introductory pats he stormed into a bank, inspected the cash machine and a share shop, and re-emerged, patting left and right.

This was 1980s Britain indeed. Along the first floor of the Woolwich, counter clerks gawped as Mr Major plunged past a baked potato stall, patting.

He then pushed hastily on towards Harvey's solicitors, still patting, to a scattered cry of "Five more years" and another of "Give 'em John". A tiny boy shinned right up a

some ways the most eloquent tribute of the afternoon. Some of Mr Major's speech was audible. He looked at times rattled but always determined. As he made his way towards the waiting cars the police appeared to lose control and he was almost pinned against the Alliance & Leicester Building Society. "More uniforms!" barked a slightly panicky police voice into a walkie-talkie. "Eighteen more years!" shouted one brave lady.

Behind the Prime Minister, they retrieved the wooden soapbox which, should he win this fight, will be parcelled up and auctioned in bits as holy relics for centuries to come.

At the bus stop outside the town hall, a little troupe of pensioners awaited their bus. Mr Major came, saw and parted. The crowds came. The police came. And, finally, all departed as the prime ministerial Jaguar sped off up the hill.

Previously engulfed, the bus stop came back into view. The pensioners were still there, waiting.

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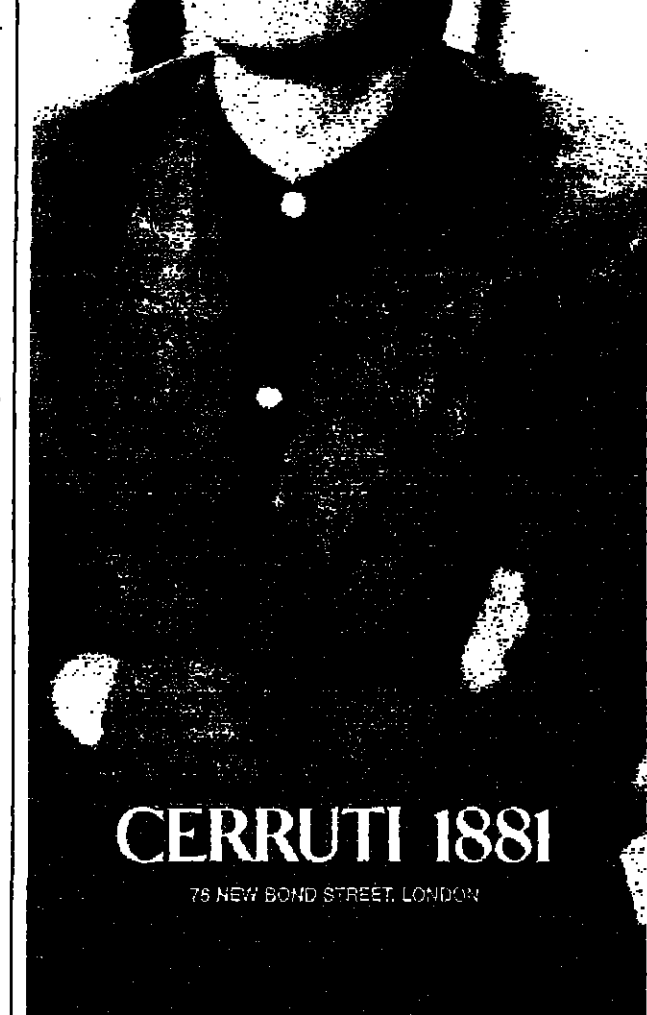
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CERRUTI 1881

78 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON

Tourist shot
A British tourist from south London has been shot dead in front of his wife after a dispute with a police patrol while travelling through the Congo.

British nuns flee clinic as priest holds off armed Albanian mob
FIVE nuns from a British order fled an armed mob who looted their clinic in the Albanian town of Korçe, a spokeswoman for the order said last night.

There were unconfirmed reports that a Canadian priest held off the crowd with a gun until they were able to escape.

The nuns, from the Nottingham-based Little Company of Mary, are now thought to be travelling to Athens or Corfu after resting in the Greek border town of Kastoria. Sister Elizabeth Farmer, 60, is from Ealing in west London, and Sister Anita MacDonald, 50, is from South Uist in the Hebrides — of the other nuns two are Irish and one is Australian.

The sisters were forced to flee Korçe in a van last Thursday as Albania descended into anarchy. They managed to cross the border on Friday despite roadblocks set up outside Kastoria.

The Canadian priest and two other British women — thought to be nuns — have decided to stay in Korçe. A Foreign Office spokesman confirmed yesterday. Sister Geraldine Mackin, a spokeswoman for the Little Company of Mary, said last night that the nuns were shaken by their ordeal but otherwise were in good spirits.

"They are determined to get back in there," she said. "They were running the only clinic in town which cares for the sick and the dying, and the town needs them more than ever."

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By Anthony Loyd in Tirana and Mark Henderson

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Rail guard attacks the fat French controllers

By Stephen Farrell

A GUARD had an unexpected announcement for commuters forced to squeeze on to the 7.10am service from Ashford, Kent, to London Charing Cross.

As the train had only four carriages instead of the usual eight, passengers should, he told them, feel free to pull the emergency cord to register their disapproval.

He also read out the address of the company which runs the South Eastern service, Connex, which is owned by the French Compagnie Generale des Eaux. According to reports Andrew Watson, 43, also told the passengers: "Connex is owned by a group of fat French peasants whose only interest in life is making money. They have no inten-

tion of providing even a half-decent service."

Yesterday, from his council house in Ashford Mr Watson said: "I deny emphatically saying anything against the French. What I was saying was a serious matter of safety."

After the incident on February 28, Mr Watson was dismissed for gross misconduct at a disciplinary hearing. The company is understood to have evidence from four Connex employees on board the train and one passenger. A spokesman for Connex said: "The conductor allegedly made inappropriate comments to passengers. He has been dismissed and his case is subject to appeal. We cannot therefore comment further."

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Hope and fear will be chief adversaries in war of words

Election campaigns are all about symbols and pictures. Yesterday's images on the opening day of the formal campaign were revealing.

John Major was portrayed both as the experienced Prime Minister standing outside 10 Downing Street and then, a few hours later, as the street fighter on his soapbox buffeted by a rowdy crowd in Luton, one of the Tories' most marginal seats.

Tony Blair was presented as the man of youth and the future, standing in a primary school classroom in south London and then travelling to Gloucester, a

seat that Labour must win for an overall Commons majority.

As in the 1992 general election, and the Tory leadership contest of July 1995, Mr Major is fighting as the underdog, the man with his back to the wall who challenges his critics and defies fashionable opinion and the pundits to win through. That approach suits Mr Major.

Unlike many of his MPs, Mr Major is not downcast by the polls. All the preparation is over and at last he is able to get out and campaign around the country. In 1992 the soapbox was only unveiled halfway through a much

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

shorter campaign. I wonder whether we may all get tired of the soapbox unless it is used sparingly over the next few weeks.

Mr Blair, by contrast, yesterday appeared less as the battler and more as the confident heir apparent. His language was all of the future — "the verge of a new millennium" and "national renewal".

He used upbeat, positive words such as talent, resource and energy. It sounded, and was, similar to

President Clinton's rhetoric during his re-election campaign last autumn and to his inauguration address two months ago, when he repeatedly referred to "building a bridge into the twenty-first century".

The reversal of roles, at least in image and rhetoric, between Mr Major as the challenger and Mr Blair as the incumbent has been shown not just by their contrasting styles of campaigning but also by their parties' different approach to policymaking.

The Tories have in many ways been bolder, more daring, recently in putting forward long-term

ideas for pension reform, residential care for the elderly and private provision of social services, while Labour has been more cautious. With a few exceptions, such as its proposals for youth and long-term unemployment, Labour has shied away from radical ideas on economic and social policy that might provoke Tory charges that the party wants to raise public spending and taxes.

The rhetorical battle over the next few weeks will be between hope and fear. Mr Major yesterday talked of the choice at the election between the party that had brought about "a revolution

in choice, opportunity and living standards" over the past 18 years and "the two parties that have opposed almost every single aspect of those changes".

He warned about what Labour might do in office, notably its proposals for constitutional reform. The success of new Labour over the past three years has to allay many of these fears — to make people less afraid of a Labour government.

Reassurance is one of what Mr Blair's advisers describe as the three Rs of the campaign, the other two being record (the Tories) and reward (what a Blair govern-

ment would do in office). In many respects, the most revealing image of the day was in the House of Commons, when Tony Newton gave the first of the two business statements of the day.

Labour MPs looked jubilant, even cocky, so confident are they of victory. The faces on the packed Tory benches were grim. They do not share their leader's eagerness for the fight. Many Conservative MPs were looking around the chamber wistfully. They fear this will be their last week in the Commons.

PETER RIDDELL

West Midlanders threaten to upset ethnic appeacart

By Andrew Pierce and Adrian Lee

RACE ISSUE

WEST Midland Tory MPs will meet today to discuss whether to defy John Major on immigration and play the race card in the general election campaign. The group will consider behind closed doors a proposal to publish a joint statement condemning Labour Party moves to water down the immigration laws.

The Prime Minister has assiduously courted the ethnic-minority vote over the past year. Some senior party officials fear that the work could be undone by any organised campaign on the sensitive race issue by MPs — many defending marginal seats — operating independently of Conservative Central Office.

But some of the Tory MPs claim that they have received private assurances from ministers that no objections will be raised to their activities. "There have been informal discussions," one MP said last night. "They know exactly what we are doing."

The issue has resurfaced on the hustings after Labour revealed it plans to change the primary-purpose rule, which obliges applicants to prove that gaining entry to Britain is not the primary purpose of their marriage to a British citizen. They would also intro-

duce a right of appeal for those refused visitor visas.

Nicholas Budgen, the MP for Wolverhampton South West, defending a 4,966 majority, is leading the moves for a tough joint line on immigration. Writing in *The Times* today, he says he will not be silenced by the high command: "Immigration is an election issue because it has changed the culture and population of large areas of our inner cities."

The issue has revived memories of the "rivers of blood" speech by Enoch Powell in 1968 at a West Midlands meeting of the Tory Party. Mr Powell represented the same Wolverhampton constituency as Mr Budgen.

Four years earlier, the slogan "If you want a nigger for a neighbour vote Labour" was used during a Conservative by-election campaign in Smethwick, Labour lost.

Research conducted by R.W. Johnson, the political academic, and Doug Schoen, now a successful American pollster, in 1974 showed that Mr Powell had a decisive nationwide effect in the 1970 and 1974 elections. Mr John-

son said last night: "Our detailed research showed that his strong anti-immigration rhetoric transcended the West Midlands and appealed to the working class and older patriotic voters across the country. We were able to show that he moved between three to five million votes to the Tories in 1970."

In the 1974 election his declaration of support for the Labour Party, because it was anti-Common Market, was equally devastating. "Powell had a strong following still among the All-England tendency. They went with him from the Tories to Labour. He won it for the Tories in 1970 and for Labour in February 1974."

Andrew Hargreaves, the Tory MP for Birmingham Hall Green, defending a majority of 3,600, dismissed comparisons with Enoch Powell but insisted that the revival of the race issue would not backfire on the Tories or be blamed on his party. It was Labour which had raised the issue, he said.

"I will be pointing out on the doorstep, and in my election address, that this is a deliberate and cynical ploy by the Labour Party to bulk-buy the ethnic vote by opening the floodgates on immigration. It will backfire. People from the ethnic community do not want the rules changed because they know it causes resentment and makes an immigration electoral issue."

When Mr Budgen raised Labour's plans in the Commons earlier this month he was slapped down by the Prime Minister, who pointedly refused to endorse his criticism. One Tory MP who will be attending today's meeting said: "MPs in big cities live with immigration every day. MPs in Huntingdon don't."

Nicholas Budgen, page 24

Switch by Major on the TV challenge

DEBATE

By Jill Sherman and Alexandra Freeman

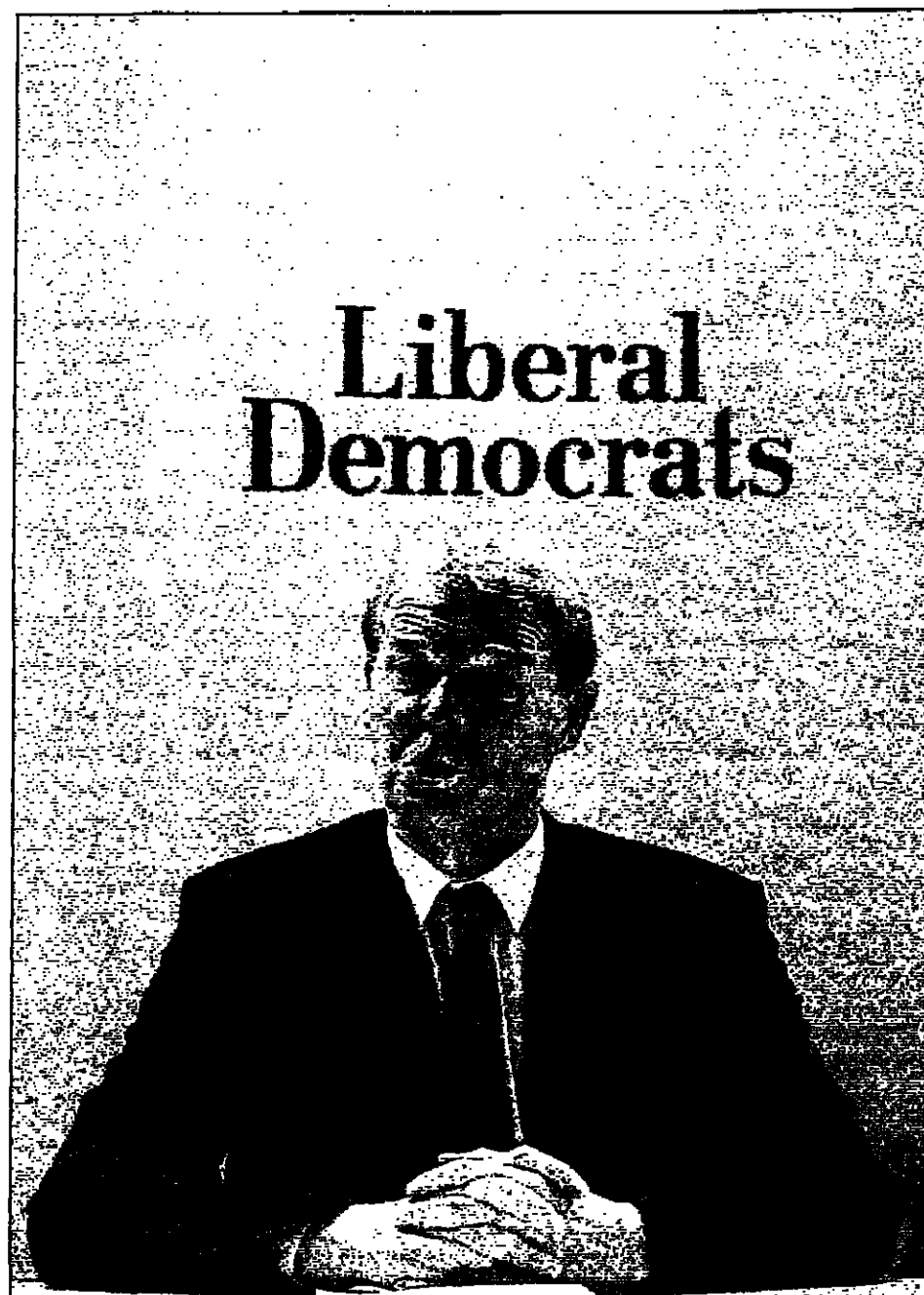
JOHN MAJOR backed down last night over the conditions he had initially demanded for a TV debate between party leaders, amid signs that an agreement with the broadcasting companies would be reached within days.

The three main parties are studying proposals from the BBC and ITV on the best way of holding a TV debate which all three leaders would accept. The Prime Minister made known on Sunday that the debate should be "prime ministerial" and should be held only between himself and Tony Blair. He also excluded the possibility of audience participation.

Yesterday he softened his position. He suggested that the broadcasters should find a way to accommodate "some involvement" for Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, although he still insists that the main debate should be between himself and Mr Blair. One option is an interview with Mr Ashdown in the middle or at the end of the debate.

Senior Tories also said last night that Mr Major would be prepared to consider some form of audience participation, provided it was a controlled event on the lines of *Question Time*, but they would not accept the format used in the Carlton monarchy debate which disintegrated into chaos following heckling from the audience.

Speaking outside Downing Street as he announced the election date, Mr Major told reporters that a TV debate would "enhance the democratic process". He said: "I very much wish to meet Mr Blair in a debate. The Labour Party have been talking about this for a long time. I welcome it, providing it's a responsible, long debate dealing with detail."



Paddy Ashdown in Taunton yesterday: "missing voice on *Blind Date*"

The Liberal Democrats have threatened legal action if Mr Ashdown is not included in a three-way debate, insisting they should be involved under the rules of impartial broadcasting.

The party's campaign chief, Lord Holme, said earlier yesterday that a televised debate which failed to include Mr Ashdown would be like an edition of the TV dating programme *Blind Date* in which only two of the three male participants were allowed to talk. Later Mr

Major said: "I have some sympathy for Mr Ashdown's position. I'm sure the broadcasters might find some way to involve him, but I think the principal debate will be between the leader of the Labour party and myself."

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said his party were happy to share the platform with Mr Ashdown, but made clear that they wanted the audience to participate. While ITV and the BBC are lobbying the political parties

hard to be the sole broadcaster, they privately admit that they might have to share — possibly with BBC1 and ITV each screening one debate.

ITV has about 36 per cent of the audience. BBC1 normally has 32 per cent. At times of crisis or events of major national import, the majority of viewers invariably tune into the BBC. However, Sir Christopher Blundell, chairman of the BBC, admitted last week that the Corporation had "no divine right" to run the programme.

Mackay to quit after a radical ten years

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, will retire after the election. He has served ten years in office, the longest single term of any Lord Chancellor this century.

His departure is not unexpected because he will be 70 in July, and even under a Conservative administration, it is unlikely he would have wished to remain beyond the retiring age for judges. But it marks the end of what has been hailed the most radical term of office of any Lord Chancellor, involving unprecedented changes in the legal profession's monopolies and restrictive practices; fundamental reforms to the divorce laws and the landmark Children Act 1989.

His successor is likely to be either Lord Irvine of Lairg, the current appointee under Labour, or Sir Patrick Mayhew (or even Lord Alexander of Weedon, QC) under a new Conservative administration. Either man would be hard put to surpass Lord Mackay, always an outsider to the English legal establishment, in terms of reforming zeal. Some said he was the best Lord Chancellor Labour ever had.

His critics remain, however, particularly among senior judges who believe he changed the role of Lord Chancellor from one which straddles the executive and judiciary to one where he was purely a government minister. "He took on a brief, and argued it superbly," one said. "But he seemed unwilling to fight government policy on behalf of the judges."

His own reforms aside, Lord Mackay has left a legacy which will shape the legal system for the next decade: the appointment of the two most senior members of the judiciary: Lord Bingham of Cornhill, and Lord Woolf of Barnes.



Budgen: wouldn't be silenced by leadership



Hargreaves: dismissed comparisons with Powell

Leaders hit campaign trail

Continued from page 1 under way. And although the parties will slow down as Easter approaches, the early activity was frantic. Today Mr Blair will stage his first big press conference, while Mr Major's battle-bus will get an unexpectedly early outing.

The Prime Minister had called the Cabinet together at 10.30 am to tell them that he was starting the longest campaign this century. At 11.26 he left for Buckingham Palace and a special audience with the Queen at which he was granted the formal dissolution of Parliament on April 8. Mr Major then returned to Downing Street, emerging at 12.35 pm to end any lingering uncertainty.

It was swiftly announced

that the present session of Parliament will end on Friday, a few days earlier than expected. After horse-trading between the two main parties, most of the Government's outstanding parliamentary business will go through before then.

But there will be one last big parliamentary clash this week when Michael Howard tries to overturn a Lords defeat which would give judges more discretion before imposing the minimum sentences contained in his crime Bill.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, refused Mr Howard's request to allow the Bill through without the Lords change and the fate of the amendment could be decided by a handful of Conservatives.

including former home secretaries, who have voiced reservations about the proposal.

In Downing Street, Mr Major said that it would be ironic if parties that had opposed government policies of the past 18 years were to pretend they could carry them on. "There's been a revolution in choice, in opportunity and in living standards," he said. "At the general election there's a choice between the party that has brought that revolution about and the two parties that have opposed almost every single aspect of those changes."

Later, in a special statement he emphasised his campaign themes, saying: "Either you stick with a party you know about and policies that have

worked, or you take a leap into the dark, with a party that you don't know and which doesn't want you to know what its policies are."

On *Newsnight*, Mr Blair denied that his policy switches in the 1980s meant that he did not have the single-mindedness to be Prime Minister. "The idea that I was once a wild-eyed left-winger who just started being a moderniser in the last few years is wrong. I have always been a moderniser."

He went on to insist that Labour's policies for schools and the health service were substantially different to the Tories', but he refused to make any further policy promises, saying: "We cannot put 18 years right in 18 days."

Sinn Fein might win two seats

SINN FEIN, the political wing of the IRA, might win two seats in the general election, David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, said yesterday (Brown Madox writes from Washington).

The decision by Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party to contest almost all of Northern Ireland's 18 seats would split the Unionist vote, Mr Trimble said. As a result, Sinn Fein might win the new seat of West Tyrone, and was poised to take West Belfast from the SDLP, he said.

City stays calm, but pound takes a beating abroad

By Janet Bush and Robert Miller

THE MARKETS

FINANCIAL markets responded nervously yesterday. Foreign investors were selling the pound, pushing it four pence lower against the German mark to DM2.0817.

The stock market ended markedly lower with the FTSE 100 index closing 51.0 points down at 4,373.3.

The City has been assuming a Labour victory and has shown little concern about the prospect. The pound and the stock market have both soared over the past few months. But there was some nervousness among overseas investors.

The selling, however, owed more to events overseas. London shares were dragged lower by a poor performance on Wall Street while the pound suffered from intrinsic strength in the mark as markets speculated that European monetary union may have to be postponed.

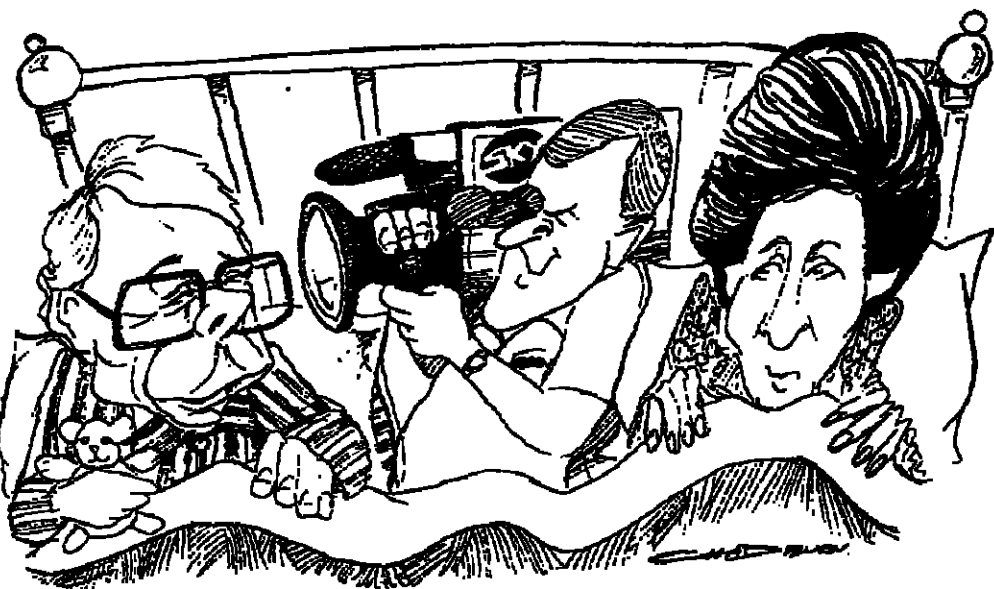
Labour is regarded now as a different animal. John Shepperd, chief economist with Yamaichi International, said: "What is so healthy for the UK is the high degree of consensus on economic policy between the parties. Policy simply isn't

a party political issue any more."

With Labour committed both to the Conservative Government's inflation target and to its spending plans, at least for the first two years of the new Parliament, the City does not expect much difference whoever wins on May 1.

The markets are agreed, for example, that either Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, or Gordon Brown will move swiftly to tighten money soon afterwards. For potential homebuyers, that means a rush for fixed-rate mortgages.

Market report, page 32
Business reaction, page 33



"Norma, I think they may be taking 24-hour coverage too far."

SKY news

Our election pledge: you won't miss a thing

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THE TIMES
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Labour aides were all wound up and ready to spin

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR set out to steal John Major's thunder yesterday with a carefully planned strategy on the day that the Prime Minister announced the date of the general election.

Peter Mandelson, Labour's chief election strategist, devised tactics several months ago to ensure that the Leader of the Opposition had his share of media attention. Yesterday was supposed to have been Mr Blair's big day, but everywhere Mr Blair went, the television cameras went too.

Mr Blair would visit a school, to underline his party's commitment to education, and then he would go to Gloucester, the key seat which Labour needs to win to secure an overall majority. Work permitting, his wife Cherie would accompany him.

"We had everything ready for weeks. Different alternatives have been planned for different scenarios. We pressed the button. Everything appears to have worked," said a relieved spin-doctor last night.

The day started with Mr Blair appearing on the Today programme on Radio 4.

Immediately after the Prime Minister's Downing Street address, he was shown live

ON THE TRAIL

among a class of children at Crampton primary school in Southwark, south London. Then he appeared late in the evening on BBC2's Newsnight programme.

Yet the Conservatives had appeared to have all the advantages, with shots of Mr Major leaving to see the Queen in the morning, and returning to be framed by the door of No 10 before leaving in the afternoon for Luton. It was Mr Major on his soapbox in George Street, Luton in 1992 that marked the turnaround in his fortunes.

Unlike five years ago, when the box emerged ten days before election day, Mr Blair unearthed the battered wooden prop on the opening day of the six-week campaign. The soap box, dormant over the intervening years but now patched up with black adhesive tape, is credited by Tory strategists as being a key element in Mr Blair's success in putting across the party message to the people.

Labour strategists had finalised their plans to boost Mr Blair's standing more than a week ago, when Julie Evans,

headmistress of Crampton primary, was phoned by his office to ask whether he could visit the school, where the maximum class size is 30, in line with Labour policy.

"We often get foreign visitors here and were quite happy for Mr Blair to come, but I had no idea it would be on day of the election announcement," said Mrs Evans. She was told that Mr Blair would like to "interact" with some of the 245 children and speak to the ten full-time teachers, and was warned that television cameras might pursue him.

On Sunday night Labour phoned her to confirm Mr Blair would be arriving this morning. At the same time the party rang the BBC to offer an interview with the Labour leader for Today.

Mr Blair duly took the prime slot on the Radio 4. Two hours later a photocall was arranged outside his home in Islington, north London, before he hit the campaign trail.

Broadcasters and photographers were tipped off that he would go to Crampton school, where he would respond to Mr Major at lunchtime. By noon, Mr Blair and the cameras were in place.

Half an hour later, Mr Blair announced a May 1 general election. After a short Downing Street press conference, the cameras switched to Mr Blair, happily talking to the children in Southwark and delivering an upbeat message about his prospects of becoming Prime Minister.

In Gloucester, people who had been identified as switching voters were approached several weeks ago. Those who had previously voted Tory or Liberal Democrat were invited to a meeting with Mr Blair on an unspecified date when the election was called.

In case any television viewer had missed Mr Blair, an interview with the presenter Jeremy Paxman was arranged for Newsnight. It was not live, but recorded at 6.20pm, to make sure that newspaper journalists who were able to take quotations for the first edition of the national papers.



Cherie Blair leaving for work yesterday. Her outfit was feminine and unthreatening

Sweet reason and baby talk as Blair dons kid gloves

By ALAN HAMILTON

LABOUR

TONY BLAIR may be a barrister by training and a declaimer by inclination, but for the opening meeting of his election campaign yesterday he adopted the style of a sweetly reasonable tutor at one of our older universities.

His audience consisted of 24 floating voters, their chairs drawn around him for instruction in new Labour. The only hecklers were three babies; the meeting had been arranged so quickly that the mothers had had no time to leave them with neighbours.

Party managers had chosen Gloucester for the leader's opening shot. They calculate that the constituency, currently held by the Tories, is their 46th most winnable seat. By Labour's calculations, a majority of one in the Commons would require them to capture it. Local party workers had spent the morning on the telephone chasing up voters who had indicated that they might switch allegiance.

In a hotel's function suite, Mr Blair sat at a low table, jostling down the questions fired at him. He had, to be frank, an easy ride, although the silent figure of Jeremy Paxman waiting in a dark corner to interview him was a stern reminder of the impending realities of campaigning.

New Labour is led by a man who can cultivate diffidence when required. One of the things he wanted to do, he said, was to go out and talk to people, eschewing any presidential-style glitz and glamour. A country-club hotel on the edge of the Cotswolds was the ideal setting.

One of his audience, an elderly and soft-spoken lady, set the tone. "I would just ask you not to promise us anything that you cannot fulfil," she said in the voice of Middle England. Mr Blair readily replied: "I can't say I can put things right overnight, but I can make a start." Was this really a politician speaking?

There were all manner of things he could not promise, such as undoing the Tories' enormous increases to prescription charges. Labour

were making only a small number of promises, and intended to keep them.

"I think the election will be the battle between hope and fear. What we have got to do is convince people of sensible, moderate change. My attitude is — keep what's working and change what isn't." He admitted that not everything in the past 18 years had necessarily been entirely bad.

One questioner feared a relapse into old socialism. Not so, said Mr Blair. "I believe in a simple set of values. We changed the Labour Party because we felt it had moved away from these values."

One of the few promises he was prepared to make was to run a very tight economic ship, telling the electorate exactly where the money was coming from for any new public expenditure. He made much of his contacts with business.

Asked about Europe, he promised a referendum before any decision to join a single currency. People, he said, did not want a federal European superstate, but they did want a genuine common market. "The most important thing is to have a clear, committed British position, and go out and fight for it."

He was all for a debate among the main party leaders, and did not appear to mind whether or not Paddy Ashdown was included. He even said he liked Paddy. But to former Tories thinking of voting Liberal Democrat, or Lib Dems wondering what to do next, he gently pointed out that Labour was the only realistic alternative government.

His polite audience applauded him warmly, and seemed genuinely impressed. David Purchase, 35, an office manager, said: "After this afternoon, you can tell that new Labour and Mr Blair have a clear view of the future. The Conservatives are in a fog." His wife Linda, 34, said: "He seems to care about people; the Tories don't."



On cue: Tony Blair visiting Crampton school

Stick with us to the end, says combative Thatcher

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

RALLYING CALL

BARONESS Thatcher threw herself straight into the election campaign yesterday with an attack on Labour and a call for voters to stick with John Major.

In a short statement outside her office in Belgrave, central London, the former Prime Minister said the idea that it was time for a change of government was absurd. She said: "If you have got a good builder or a good government, you don't change. You stick with them, and I hope you will stick with us."

Clearly relishing the opportunity to stamp her mark on the election campaign from the outset, Lady Thatcher said: "The phrase 'new Labour' is cunningly designed to conceal a lot of old socialism. Don't be taken in. Old Labour or new Labour will always spend more money. There is only one place it can come

from and that is the pockets of the people. Don't risk it. Stay with us and with John Major until we cross the finishing line."

Lady Thatcher, dressed in a dark navy blue suit and gold necklace, brushed aside — but did not deny — recent reports that she had privately said the Labour leader would not let Britain down. Asked if she thought that "Prime Minister Blair" would let Britain down, she replied: "I am hoping we don't get to Prime Minister Blair. I am hoping we keep Prime Minister Major, and that is the point of everything I have said."

Pressed again, Lady Thatcher, who left office in 1990, said: "I do not expect to see Prime Minister Blair. Mr Blair is different from Prime Minister Blair. I am fighting for Prime Minister Major and I am fighting with every effort I can bring forth. Asked if she

thought that Tony Blair was "a good chap", she replied: "I hope you think Thatcher's a good woman, otherwise why have you come in such numbers?"

Lady Thatcher, who has privately voiced concerns about the Government's policies on Europe, was asked how she thought the issue would affect the election campaign. "I am all for parliamentary sovereignty and it is diminishing further," she said. "I think we are the party most likely to keep parliamentary sovereignty."

Lady Thatcher is preparing to play a key role in the election campaign. She will be touring constituencies in an attempt to keep wavering Tory voters from backing Labour, although precise details have yet to be worked out. "She will be going round the constituencies as she did in 1992," an aide said. "She is very determined to fight tooth and nail for the Conservatives and John Major."

Eschewing fashion for power

By GRACE BRADBERRY, STYLE EDITOR

AS TONY BLAIR entered the prime ministerial race, his wife embarked on another competition — to become the most elegant political wife. Power-dressing may be back in fashion, but as Cherie Blair stepped out of their Islington home for the first photo-opportunity of the election, it was clear that she would be ignoring the trend.

Instead she turned to one of her favourite British designers, Ronit Zilkha, for an outfit that was feminine and unthreatening. The ensemble, more suitable for lunch at Le Caprice than a day in court, will reassure those who see her as a British Hillary Clinton. She has already softened her hairstyle in an effort to make herself more acceptable to wavering voters. But the makeover does not come cheap: the jacket costs £279, the dress £220. Enough to clothe a large family.

They're off in the £10m betting race

By JOE JOSEPH

THE BOOKIES

BETTING shops are expecting to take £10 million of bets on the general election — roughly a third of the money we gamble each year on the Derby, or about the same as we wager on the FA Cup and Wimbledon championships combined.

Labour is attracting the shorter odds, but the Tories were proving the more seductive bet yesterday afternoon from punters attracted by the 3-1 odds on John Major winning an overall majority on May 1.

Graham Sharpe, of William Hill, said he was offering 1-4 for Labour to win with a clear overall majority, with the Tories on 3-1 and the Liberal Democrats 2,000-1. Odds of 10-3 were available on a hung Parliament.

"We have already taken about a third of a million pounds so far. I took one £25,000 bet today at 1-7 on Labour being the largest single party from a man who

raided his building society account. I know that because his cheque was drawn on his building society." Coral had Labour at 1-7 to win outright, with the Conservatives at 4-1 and the Liberal Democrats 1,000-1.

William Hill is forecasting that the Conservatives will

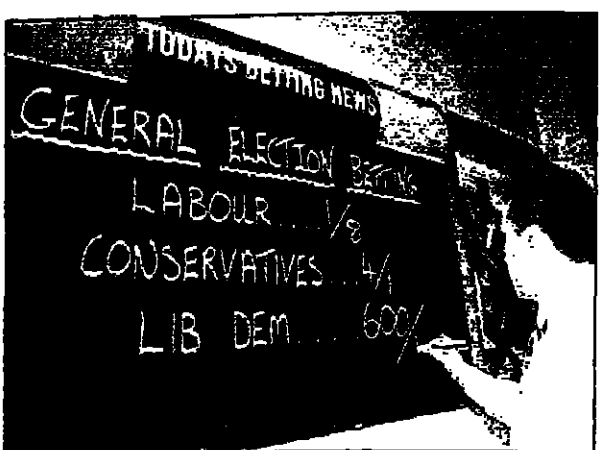
get 240-244 seats, with Labour taking 365-369. The firm has also opened a book on who will succeed John Major in the event of a Tory defeat, offering 7-2 for William Hague and Michael Portillo, 5-1 for Michael Howard and Michael Heseltine, and 10-1 for Kenneth Clarke and Stephen Dorrell.

"We've had lively betting on Major's successor," Mr

Sharpe said, but he will take bets on almost anything. "Screaming Lord Sutch has put £5 on himself at 15 million to one to be the next Prime Minister, which is even longer odds than the 14 million to one we're offering on Elvis Presley crash-landing a UFO on the head of the Loch Ness monster. A man from west London put £1 on that last summer. He said: 'You never know.' I said: 'No, you never know, but you can be quite confident sometimes.'"

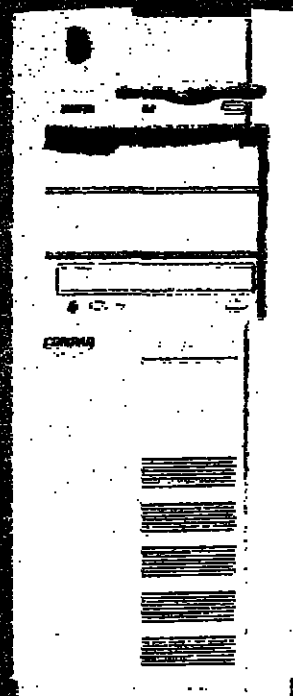
Mr Sharpe said that the average political bet was £20 to £25, compared with a fiver on horse races. The punters were different, too. "It tends to be those people who believe they have some specialist political information that they think they can make count. I've had four calls from candidates wanting to bet on themselves."

He did not seem to have mentioned the Referendum Party in his odds. "Er, no," muttered Mr Sharpe.



Ladbrokes' odds yesterday. Bookies expect a bonanza

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Ex-police chief takes bugging case to Strasbourg



Alison Halford

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE telephones of the former Assistant Chief Constable of Merseyside, Alison Halford, were illegally bugged on a warrant of the Home Secretary, the European Court of Human Rights was told yesterday.

Calls were intercepted both at her home and at her office in Merseyside police headquarters, contrary to two articles of the European Convention on Human Rights, the court in Strasbourg was told. Miss Halford also claims that she had no effective remedy in the British courts to challenge what

had happened, and that she faced sex discrimination.

The legal action is the latest round in a six-year campaign by Miss Halford, once Britain's highest-ranking female police officer, to prove that she was repeatedly passed over for further promotion because she was a woman.

Miss Halford subsequently alleged that telephone taps had been ordered to try to discredit her because she complained about promotion policies in the Merseyside force.

Her discrimination case was resolved with a six-figure settlement in 1992, after Miss Halford, then 52, had been suspended on full pay amid

allegations of horseplay at a swimming pool.

But the Interception of Communications Tribunal threw out Miss Halford's separate case in which she claimed that the Special Branch had bugged her office at Merseyside police headquarters and tapped the telephone at her home in Caldy on the Wirral. The tribunal said it was satisfied there had been no contravention of the Interception of Communications Act — refusing to clarify whether the interceptions had taken place or whether they had been authorised by the Home Secretary.

The Home Office wrote to Miss

Halford's MP explaining that eavesdropping by the Merseyside Police on their own telephone system was outside the scope of the Act and would not require a warrant.

Yesterday the judges of the European Court of Human Rights were asked to rule on whether telephone-tapping breached Miss Halford's right to privacy and freedom of expression, safeguarded by the Human Rights Convention, to which Britain is a signatory. The Human Rights Commission, in an opinion not binding on the judges, has already advised that tapping Miss Halford's office telephone was a breach.

Loyalist terror is back, police chief warns

Loyalist terrorists have resumed a campaign of violence and there is a risk that they will formally end their 28-month ceasefire, the Chief Constable of the RUC said. Ronnie Flanagan said: "Nobody should be under any illusion that this is part of a phoney war. Every act carried out by the republican movement brings us closer to a total disintegration of the ceasefire in place by the so-called Combined Loyalist Military Command." John Slane, a Roman Catholic father of ten shot dead on Friday, was buried yesterday. Earlier this month, a bomb containing 25lbs of commercial explosive failed to detonate outside Sinn Féin offices in Monaghan.

Bloody Sunday claim

New evidence about Bloody Sunday, when 14 civilians were shot dead in Londonderry by the Army, has been described as "very serious" by John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister. He said in Washington that claims by a paratrooper on duty on the day could prompt a reassessment of the shootings. The soldier told an Irish newspaper that his original evidence intended for the Widgery inquiry was withdrawn in favour of a different testimony written for him.

New cattle cull starts

An additional cull of about 100,000 cattle at increased risk of developing "mad cow" disease has begun after months of delay and a change of mind by the Government. The aim is to target cattle which ate the same feed when young as other animals that have since died of BSE. This selective cull is in addition to the slaughter of all cattle over 30 months old, under which 1.3 million animals have been destroyed since last May.

£2.5m cathedral grant

Canterbury Cathedral has been awarded £2.5 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to build an education centre. The grant matches money raised by cathedral authorities to begin the first phase of a £7.5 million development aimed at children and young people. The education complex, which is due to be completed by 1998, includes a 250-seat auditorium, two theatres and conference and exhibition facilities.

Papal role for Winning

The Pope has appointed Cardinal Thomas Winning, the leader of Scotland's Roman Catholics, as his personal envoy for celebrations marking the 1,400th anniversary of the death of St Columba, who brought Christianity to Scotland. The announcement was made yesterday in the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*. The celebrations will be held in Ireland in June. Columba was born in Gargan, Co Donegal, in AD 521.

Gascoigne sentenced

Paul Gascoigne, the England and Rangers footballer, was given a suspended three-month prison sentence by a Rome court for punching a photographer. Gascoigne, who was not in court, hit Lino Nanni, one of Rome's photographers, when he photographed him with a woman in 1994, when he was playing for Lazio. Lawyers for Gascoigne said he had acted legitimately to defend his privacy.



Minister's son charged

Alexander Bonsor, 20, the son of the Foreign Office Minister Sir Nicholas Bonsor, has been charged with drink-driving, using a vehicle in an unsuitable manner and using a vehicle likely to cause danger. He was arrested in Bristol, where he is studying politics at the university. Mr Bonsor, heir to an estimated £13 million fortune, was bailed by police to appear before magistrates on Thursday.

Gummer rejects Nirex plan to bury radioactive waste

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE nuclear industry suffered its first planning defeat yesterday when John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, vetoed plans for a key waste-disposal facility.

Nirex, the company charged with building an underground repository for the waste, will now have to decide whether to seek a judicial review or to seek an alternative site.

The decision relates to a preliminary stage, an underground rock laboratory designed to prove that the site at Gosforth in Cumbria, close to Sellafield, would be a safe place to store intermediate-level waste. About £200 million has already been spent in preliminary drilling and scientific studies at the site.

The repository, if it is ever built, is expected to cost £2 billion. Intermediate-level waste contains radioactive materials that will remain dangerous for at least 10,000 years. This imposes great demands on the design of any repository.

The planning application for the "Rock Characterisation Facility" was rejected by Cumbria County Council in December 1994. Nirex appealed and a six-month inquiry was held, ending in February 1996. Mr Gummer announced yesterday that the planning inspector had recommended rejection of the appeal and that he agreed.

Mr Gummer said he was critical of "poor design, layout

and arrangements for access" to the site, close to the Lake District National Park. More significantly, he said that "scientific uncertainties and technical deficiencies" in the proposals would also justify rejection. He criticised the process by which the site had been selected and the adequacy of the environmental statement made by Nirex to justify that selection.

Nirex said yesterday: "Our remit is to find a disposal route for intermediate-level radioactive waste. The waste will not go away. We are obviously very disappointed. The company will want to review the planning inspector's report and the Secretary of State's decision letter before deciding on the next steps."

Environmentalists hailed the decision. Dr Rachel

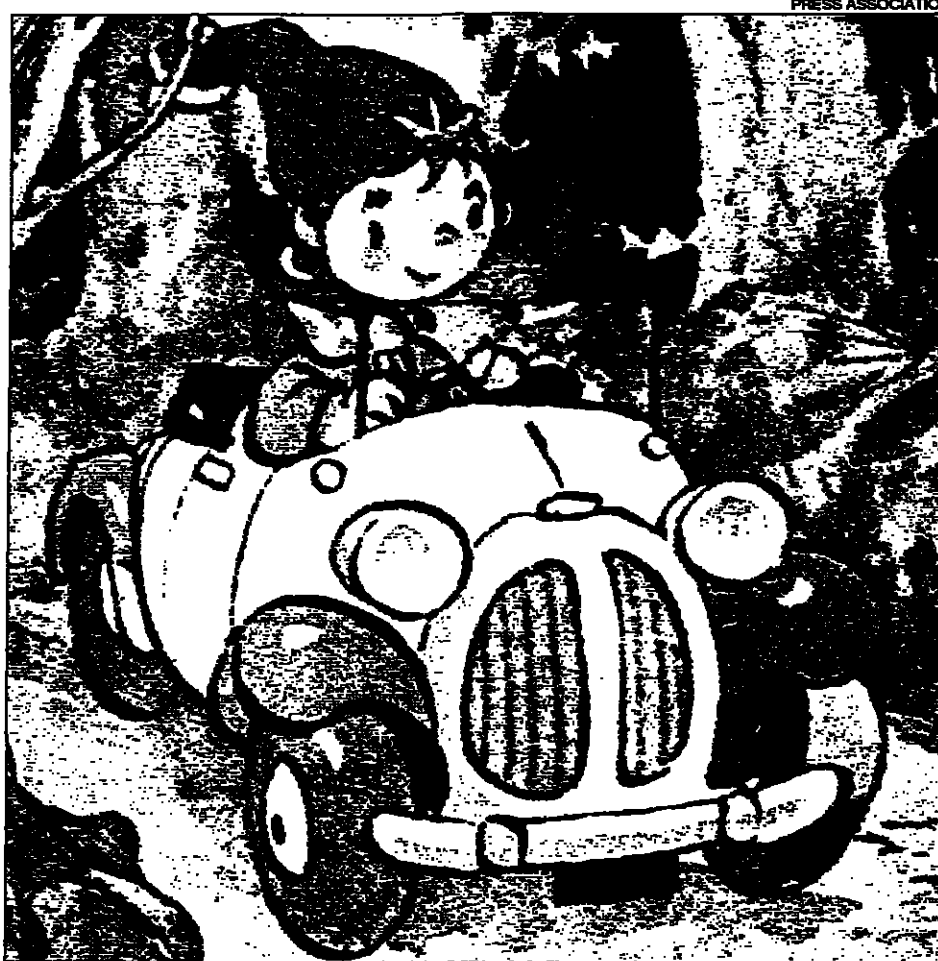
Western, of Friends of the Earth, which has opposed the Nirex plans for the past eight years, said: "Throughout its history the nuclear industry has ridden roughshod over issues of public health and safety. The rejection by the Government of Nirex's scientific and technical case has fully vindicated Friends of the Earth's research programme and delivered an historic victory for the environmental movement. The future of Nirex must now be in doubt."

The repository was also opposed by the Irish Government, which earlier this year threatened to take legal action if Nirex was allowed to build the rock laboratory.

Only one other site was ever seriously considered for a repository for intermediate-level waste — Dounreay in Caithness, Scotland. Like Sellafield, it is already a nuclear site, where many local people work. Nirex eliminated Dounreay from consideration and it would be difficult to reverse that decision now. But if it cannot get planning permission near Sellafield, where the nuclear industry has enjoyed strong local support, for a preliminary stage in building the repository, its chances elsewhere look slim. While geological conditions elsewhere may be better, local political opposition would be strong, especially in southern England.



Gummer criticised poor design and layout of plan



Toyland on the move: Noddy will speak with an American accent

Noddy heads West, complete with accent and wrenches

By MORAG PRESTON

NODDY is to be introduced to American TV audiences as a little wiseguy who speaks their language. The characters in Toyland will speak with US accents and translated words, such as changing "spanner" to "wrench".

The specially made £5 million version was announced

yesterday by the Enid Blyton Company and BBC Worldwide for the PBS children's channel, which made *Thomas the Tank Engine* a big hit. David Lane, managing director of the Enid Blyton Company, said: "The US is a hard market to break into because of the distance and the demanding targets that American requires from businesses."

But we expect American children will identify with a little boy who gets into trouble and makes adults out to be the baddies. It could have been written yesterday.

Ben Lenthall, director of BBC Worldwide's international publishing arm, said: "We recognised that for Noddy to succeed in the North American television market, he would require a tailor-made series which would refresh his international appeal."

Networks in the US and Canada have already signed up to broadcast the half-hour programmes, to be produced in Toronto by Catalyst Entertainment. New Toyland characters are being created for the series — a mixture of animation, live action, and puppetry. Existing characters from Enid Blyton's other stories will also appear.

When HarperCollins publishes the Noddy books in the US this summer, it will be the Toyland characters' American debut. A BBC Worldwide spokeswoman said that a major overhaul of Noddy for the politically correct American market was now unnecessary as the stories, which originally featured golliwogs, had already been shorn of all unacceptable elements for a British TV series.

Part of the reason that Noddy is so late in travelling across the Atlantic is that until 1950 Enid Blyton handled all her own business, including publishing contracts and fan mail. But since the Enid Blyton Company was acquired by Trecoader for £13 million in January 1996, the author's work has raised millions of pounds from publishing, broadcasting and merchandising deals.

Assisted places may continue without subsidy

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

INDEPENDENT schools are preparing alternatives to the Assisted Places Scheme because of Labour's plans to abolish the private education subsidy for children from poor families.

Labour said that the move, which was disclosed at a conference on the future of independent schools yesterday, justified its plan to use the £120 million the scheme costs each year to limit infant classes to 30 pupils. Margaret Hodge, a shadow education spokeswoman, said that a think had opened among opponents of the policy.

Chris Parker, headmaster of Nottingham High School, told the conference at St Dunstan's College, in Catford, southeast London, that his governors were "already planning to finance their assisted places to keep what they have been doing". One fifth of the 950 pupils at his school receive money from the Assisted Places Scheme, which was set up by the Conservative Government in 1980.

Mrs Hodge said: "If you can fund such a scheme from your own resources, I am delighted. If we have achieved that, it is all to the good and you can carry on the benefits the scheme brings without having a call on very limited public funds." After the conference,

which was attended by 100 headmasters, Mr Parker, chairman of the assisted places committee of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, which represents 250 leading independent schools, said that a quarter of those schools which took the 40,000 assisted place pupils could afford to consider providing places from their own resources.

Mrs Hodge made three promises to the headmasters to settle some of the main doubts independent schools may have about Labour policy. She said Labour had no plans to charge VAT on school fees, nor to change the charitable status of schools. Nor had the party plans to impose the national curriculum on independent schools.

She also confirmed that discussions had taken place with Dr Martin Stephen, Headmaster of Manchester Grammar School, on his plans for opening school sixth forms to bright comprehensive school students who wanted to learn subjects such as Latin or Greek at A-level, or to prepare for Oxbridge entry. However, no decision would be taken on implementing these plans until Labour was in government.

Leading article, page 25

Does Your English Let You Down?

A WORLD-FAMOUS educational publisher reports that there is a simple technique for acquiring a swift mastery of good English. It can double your powers of self-expression. It can pay you real dividends in business and social advancement, and give you added poise, self-confidence and personal effectiveness.

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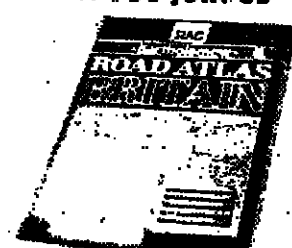
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Recruit was forced to serve tea to men in bed £200,000 for firewoman bullied by colleagues

By DANIEL MCGRODY

A FIREFIGHTER who was insulted and bullied by her male colleagues won £200,000 yesterday in one of the biggest sexual discrimination settlements. Tania Clayton, 31, had fought for compensation with her local authority employers for three years.

Mrs Clayton was routinely called a "tart", forced to carry out useless and dangerous drills, physically abused and made to serve tea in bed to firemen. In an attempt to scare her out of the service Mrs Clayton was left to sit for an hour at the top of a turntable ladder 100ft above the ground.

She said her treatment by Hereford and Worcester Fire Brigade caused the collapse of her marriage and a bout of depression. An industrial tribunal said in 1994 that the brigade "should bear an individual and collective shame for the most appalling discrimination".

Since then, Mrs Clayton has been arguing for £500,000 compensation against Hereford and Worcester County



Clayton: left on top of 100ft ladder for an hour

Council and accepted yesterday's reduced figure after 90 minutes of negotiations, just before an industrial tribunal in Shrewsbury was due to hear her claim.

Mrs Clayton said she hoped the size of her settlement would force local authorities to eradicate sexual discrimination in fire brigades. She is still unemployed and lives with her parents in Wiltshire since leaving her husband and two stepsons two years ago.

She conceded yesterday that

she had no current career plans. "I just want to get a place of my own with a garden where I can spend some time with my Staffordshire bull terrier and sort out my life."

Janet Smith, her solicitor, said the compensation reflected "the nine years of Tania's life the legal action and the fire service had taken". It had been only in the past fortnight that the local authority had apologised to Mrs Clayton, despite the condemnation by the 1994 tribunal, she added.

The county council yesterday blamed the size of Mrs Clayton's original compensation demand and "the protracted legal process" for the delay in agreeing the award.

Mrs Clayton joined the fire service in December 1989 after five years in the Women's Royal Army Corps. She was eventually assigned to Blue Watch at Hereford under sub-officer Ronald East, who told her to get a job in a kitchen.

In June she was transferred to Worcester station but returned to Hereford two years later and joined Green Watch so that she might avoid Mr

East, but cruelty, victimisation and insults continued.

Mrs Clayton was notified of her retirement from the brigade through ill health in July 1994, a day before her complaint was due to be heard at an industrial tribunal.

The 23-day hearing was told that a senior brigade officer introduced her to colleagues by saying: "The good news is you are getting another member of the watch. The bad news is that the new member of the watch is a woman." She was also referred to as a "stupid cow" and a "tart". The tribunal was told that the fire service was "deeply ingrained with a culture of hostility to women".

For 15 months as a firefighter she was forced to make the tea. "I knew I was entering a male environment and did not expect them to stop swearing or open doors for me," she said, but senior officers' insults "lowered my status".

An internal fire brigade disciplinary hearing cleared Mr East of wrongdoing. Under the brigade's rules the matter cannot be reopened.

Husband 'let lodger sleep with wife, then shot him'

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A HUSBAND suffering from impotence shot his lodger for having sex with his wife, the Old Bailey was told yesterday. The lodger said that he had the husband's permission to sleep with her.

Hans Potter, 64, a diabetic, allegedly fired a .22 Winchester pump-action rifle through the bathroom door, severely wounding Keith Thomas in the back of the neck.

Simon Wilde, for the prosecution, told the jury: "Mr Potter was prepared to turn a blind eye to the affair. Mrs Potter had certain needs in that department of life which Mr Potter could not fulfil."

"Notwithstanding the triangle between them, and the fact that it caused friction, Mr Thomas and Mr Potter remained friendly, man to man. It was a situation, an arrangement, a set-up between three people that was likely to give a lot of scope for jealousy and pent-up resentment."

Mr Potter, a commodities trader, first caught his wife, Virginia, and Mr Thomas in bed together in August 1995 and fired the rifle six times at the wall behind them to frighten them. They stopped their affair but resumed it a year later.

Mr Thomas, 52, an electronics engineer, told the court: "Mr Potter got to know when Virginia and I restarted our relationship because he sent her to me. He and I discussed it later. He wanted Virginia to spend the nights with him, but did not object to our relationship. He just wanted it kept quiet, so none of the neighbours or fellow lodgers knew."

"Later he asked to be notified before we went to bed but I didn't agree to let him know beforehand. I said it was ridiculous."

Last April the three ate dinner together at Mr Potter's house at Holmbury St Mary, Surrey, drinking four bottles of wine before Mr



Mrs Potter and Mr Thomas leaving court yesterday

Potter went to his club. Mr Thomas said: "When he left, Mrs Potter and I drank some more, at least another bottle between us."

"After about half an hour, Virginia got up and took me by the arm and towed me into the small spare bedroom. I didn't know what she wanted, to begin with. I closed the curtains."

"We fumbled around a little, then gave it up and went back to the kitchen. I wasn't up to it anyway, because of the drinking. She was fairly

tiddly. We both had too much to drink." He said Mr Potter returned and shouted about the bedroom curtains being closed, saying: "I am going to shoot you." Mr Thomas said his last coherent memory was opening the bathroom door. The bullet fragmented beside his spinal column and surgeons decided it was too dangerous to remove it.

Mr Potter denies attempted murder, two wounding charges and having a firearm with intent to endanger life. The trial continues today.

Surgeon in deaths inquiry decides to retire

By A STAFF REPORTER

A HEART surgeon whose standard of work is being investigated after a series of deaths resigned yesterday. James Wisheart, cardiothoracic surgeon at the Bristol Royal Infirmary, announced his retirement ahead of the inquiry's findings, which are expected in the next few weeks.

Mr Wisheart gave up operating on children in 1995 after it was disclosed that nine out of 15 babies who had undergone open heart surgery had died. Last December, when medical executives ordered an external review of the quality of adult heart surgery in Bristol, he voluntarily suspended all his surgery and resigned as medical director of the United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust.

The review, of 2,500 open-heart adult cardiac operations between January 1993 and November 1995, has been carried out by experts from St George's and Hammer-smith hospitals in London. The review found that the quality of heart surgery in Bristol was in line with the national average but singled out Mr Wisheart for "further investigation".

Mr Wisheart had earlier stopped operating on children after a high fatality rate was revealed in a series of controversial "switch" operations on newborn babies. The operation involved switching the pulmonary artery with the main aorta.

Hugh Ross, chief executive of the United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust, said: "James Wisheart has served the National Health Service with great loyalty for many years and he was instrumental in the development of cardiac services over many years in Bristol."

"However, recent events have put considerable personal strain on Mr Wisheart and the trust supports and understands the decision he has now taken."

Fireman haunted by face of dead girl feared he had become a jinx

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A FIREMAN felt he had become a jinx on young lives after seeing the victims of two multiple deaths. In a vision that was to haunt him, Francis Connelly looked at the charred body of a dead girl and imagined that her lips were moving, begging him for help.

The girl was sitting upright in the doorway to her mother's bedroom. She was one of four dead — three of them children — who were found after a house blaze was put out. Two months earlier, Mr Connelly was at a car crash scene in where five young men died.

Mr Connelly, 41, of Dunfermline, Fife, became unfit to work because of post-traumatic stress disorder. However, the fire service's insurers refused to accept a claim, saying that he had not suffered

bodily injury. Yesterday he won the first stage of a legal fight to seek compensation. At the Court of Session, Edinburgh, Lord Coulsfield granted him the right to pursue a £30,000 claim against New Hampshire Insurance Company, and ruled that he did "suffer something which can properly be described as a bodily injury to his person".

The fireman began suffering from flashbacks, recurring bad dreams and intense psychological distress in January 1993, and claimed his disability arose from two horrific incidents. The first was in November 1992 when five young men died in a road accident for no apparent reason. He felt that the date — Friday the 13th — was somehow malign.

On January 18, he was called to a house fire on night duty and had to enter the premises after the blaze had been put out.

Upstairs, he found the bodies of the children and their mother. Dr Ian Tierney, a clinical psychologist, said that when Mr Connelly reached the head of the stairs he had a "very brief and shocking image that the dead child in the doorway was still alive and that her lips were moving, calling for him to help her."

"His thoughts at that time were that in some way he was responsible, that he was a Jonah and that, if he had not been there, the deaths would not have occurred."

The fireman left his job in October 1993. Ruling on the preliminary point, Lord Coulsfield said: "Even though such unpleasant sights may be something which a fireman has to anticipate, the particularly distressing circumstances may be sufficiently unexpected and have sufficiently unexpected consequences to provide the necessary fortuitous element."

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Highest rise in violent crime for seven years

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

VIOLENT crime rose by 11 per cent in England and Wales last year, the biggest increase for seven years, according to figures published yesterday.

The rise in violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery, came as recorded property crimes continued to fall. The number of rapes of women increased by 717 cases, almost 15 per cent, and male rape by 77 cases, 51 per cent.

Overall, offences recorded by the police in England and Wales fell by 1.3 per cent in 1996, the fourth consecutive drop — the first time in more than a century that recorded crime has fallen for four years running — while 1.3 million or 27 per cent of all offences were cleared up, 1 per cent more than in 1995.

Michael Howard, announcing the fall in offences from 5,100,000 to 5,033,000, said the figures were very encouraging but admitted that crime was still far too high. The Home

Secretary said there was a clear correlation between crime falling and action to increase the risk of people being sent to prison for serious offences.

Mr Howard conceded that the risk of being sent to jail only began to increase in 1993-1994, but added: "The efforts of the police and local communities, and the policies which we are pursuing together are making — and will continue to make — a real difference to fighting crime up and down the country."

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said the figures showed there were no grounds for complacency or self-congratulation. He said recorded crime had risen by 98 per cent from 2,536,000 in 1979, while the number of convictions had gone down by one third.

Violent crime rose by 33,400 to 344,300 cases, the largest increase since 1989.

Offences of violence against the person rose by 26,500 or 12 per cent to 239,100, and life-threatening attacks by 22,400 or 17 per cent.

Violent offences against the person rose by 78 per cent in Gwent, 77 per cent in Bedfordshire, 44 per cent in Sussex; 28 per cent in the Metropolitan Police area and by 27 per cent in Norfolk.

The number of homicides, including murder and manslaughter, fell by 8 per cent from 745 to 680 offences in 1996. The figures show that 93 per cent of homicides and 89 per cent of attempted murders were solved.

The worst areas for increases in violent crime were London and the South East, where there was an 18 per cent rise to 125,070 offences; the South, comprising Hampshire, Surrey and Sussex, where there was a 16 per cent rise to 18,760; Wales, by 19 per cent to 18,380; the eastern

region, comprising Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk, by 20 per cent to 20,300 offences.

Ministers and police believe that the increase — which was only 7 per cent of overall recorded crime — is to a large extent due to much greater reporting of domestic violence and sexual offences.

Sexual offences rose by 3.2 per cent to 31,200. The figures show that 77 per cent of rapes of women and 78 per cent of male rapes were cleared up.

Only in the eastern region, and the East Midlands, comprising Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire, were the number of recorded rapes down.

Robbery offences rose by 5,900 or 8.6 per cent to 74,000, with most recorded incidents being street muggings. In Dyfed-Powys the increase was 80.8 per cent, 42 per cent in Northamptonshire, 39 per cent in Cleveland and 34 per cent in Durham.

Property offences, including burglary, fell by 2.2 per cent from 4.7 million to 4.6 million. Burglaries fell by 6.1 per cent to 1,164,000 with domestic burglaries dropping by 6.5 per cent to 599,241, reflecting initiatives to target such offences.

Vehicle crime decreased from 1.32 million to 1.29 million, or 2.2 per cent. Thefts from vehicles decreased by 13,600 or 2 per cent and thefts of vehicles by 15,100 or 3 per cent.



Susan Dickinson, whose daughter Caroline was murdered in northern France

Caroline's family warns parents

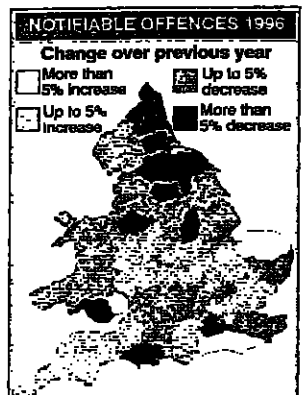
THE father of Caroline Dickinson, the British schoolgirl murdered in Brittany last July, yesterday warned parents of children who might be visiting the area that the killer might strike again.

John Dickinson, 41, whose 13-year-old daughter was raped and killed in a hostel dormitory while on a school trip to Pleine Fougères, was addressing a news conference

in Launceston, Cornwall. Mr Dickinson, a local government officer, who visited the French town at the weekend, said that the mayor had made plain that local people feared that the killer could carry out another attack.

Mr Dickinson's French lawyer, Hervé Rouzaud Le Boeuf, has asked for voluntary DNA testing of men in the area and for a fresh team

to examine the evidence. Mr Dickinson was accompanied yesterday by his former wife, Susan, 38. Mrs Dickinson did not speak at the news conference, but the Rev Tim Newcombe, said on her behalf that she supported her former husband's efforts to advance the investigation, and wanted to provide "peace and stability" for their surviving daughter.



OFFENCES RECORDED BY THE POLICE			
OFFENCES (000's)	1995	1996	% change
Violence against the person	212.6	239.1	12.5
Sexual offences	30.3	31.2	3.0
Robbery	88.1	74.0	-8.6
Total violent crime	310.9	344.3	10.7
Burglary	1,288.2	1,164.4	-9.6
Total theft and handling stolen goods	2,482.1	2,383.0	-4.0
Vehicle crime	1,321.5	1,292.7	-2.2
Fraud and forgery	135.0	135.9	0.7
Criminal damage	914.0	850.7	-7.0
Total property crime	4,738.8	4,633.9	-2.2
Other notifiable offences	90.7	85.6	-5.6
Total all offences	5,100.2	5,033.8	-1.3



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Connery speaks for Dunblane appeal

By EMMA WILKINS

PARENTS and victims of the Dunblane shootings launched a cinema advertisement yesterday to try to persuade voters and politicians to support a total ban on handguns.

The 40-second advertisement shows a gun being fired at a paper target in the shape of a person, and has a voice-over by Sean Connery. The Snowdrop Campaign, formed after the school shootings a year ago, criticises legislation that will ban civilian use of all handguns over .22 calibre, but leave available 40,000 .22 single shot and semi-automatic handguns.

At a preview at the National Film Theatre in London, Ann Pearson, leader of the campaign, said: "We are soon going to be bombarded with speeches by people who want a precious thing from us — our vote. I want every parent to use their vote to protect what is most precious to them, to put in Parliament men and

women who will rid Britain of handguns forever."

Mrs Pearson defended the campaign's decision to use Mr Connery, whose most famous role is as the pistol-brandishing James Bond. "He is an eminent Scot and film star. His voice is known all over the world," she said.

Mr Connery, who gave his services free, recorded the soundtrack at his home in Marbella. His voice-over says: "It is said that a total ban on handguns including .22s would take away innocent pleasure from thousands of people. Is that more or less pleasure than watching your child grow up?"

Mike Yardley, of the Sportsman's Association, said: "I don't know of one instance when a .22 calibre pistol has been used in a homicide in this country. All a ban would achieve is totally to destroy Olympic and Commonwealth Games sport in this country."

Paedophile pesters his victims from prison

By LIN JENKINS

A PAEDOPHILE jailed for molesting boys has been pestering them with letters and telephone calls from prison.

Andrew Charlton, 32, reduced one of his 12-year-old victims to tears when he telephoned his home. The boy's parents said that Charlton was using the protection of jail to assault their son further.

They and parents of the other youngsters have tried to stop Charlton by sending him a solicitor's letter threatening legal action after six months of bombardment with birthday and Christmas cards, letters and telephone calls.

The parents plan to make a formal protest to the governor of Winchester prison, where Charlton is serving an eight-year term after admitting seven charges of indecent assault. The trial judge said that Charlton was a rampant homosexual paedophile.

One mother said: "I'm being haunted by him and he is in prison. I'm never going to get away from him until the day he dies."

Michael Pascoe, the prison governor, said: "The State, in its infinite wisdom, decided to remove some of the measures which helped us prevent this. I urge the parents of the children to get in touch so we can do something about it."

Prisoners, apart from category A, are not subject to censorship and neither their mail nor telephone calls are monitored. However, they can be prevented from sending unwelcome letters or making nuisance telephone calls.

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Eagle is give

Six years for gay killer of fashion designer

Navy buys f hunter-killer

Wounded bird freed from cage by army patrol

Eagle rescued in Bosnia is given flying lessons

By Shirley English

A GOLDEN eagle rescued from captivity by British soldiers serving in Bosnia is to be released back into the wild in Scotland later this year. The bird, which has an 8ft wing span, is learning how to fly again after being shot and wounded by a Bosnian hunter, who planned to sell it to a zoo or have it stuffed.

The female bird was spotted by a patrol of The Royal Green Jackets and The Queen's Dragoon Guards last October, in a cramped steel cage hanging outside the hunter's home in Prozor, near Gorzlj Vakuf. Its plumage was in tatters and, after inquiring about its fate, the soldiers decided to evacuate it.

Major David Norris, of The Queen's Dragoon Guards, who was in charge of the mixed company, organised a collection among his men and bought the bird for DM400 (£160). The eagle, named Rama after the lake at Prozor, was then flown to Britain in an



Rama with her keeper at the Hawk Conservancy

RAF Hercules for rehabilitation.

Falconers at the Hawk Conservancy, in Weyhill, near Andover, Hampshire, are now attempting to rebuild its strength and independence. They hope to be able to release it at a secret location in the Highlands this autumn.

A spokesman for The Royal Green Jackets, in Bulford, Wiltshire, said Major Norris, who spotted the bird, called on

the expertise of Andy Thompson, who works for the RSPCA in Leeds and was serving then as reservist corporal in the Royal Army Medical Corps in Bosnia.

"To see such a majestic creature as Rama in a tiny, cramped cage was a heart-breaking sight, and he and the rest of the regiment felt it was unacceptable. They raised DM400, the only currency being accepted at the time, and bought her freedom," the spokesman said.

Major Norris obtained permission from the Department of the Environment to import Rama. Mr Thompson then drove the bird to Banja Luka airport, where it was taken aboard the Hercules. It was quarantined before being sent to the Hawk Conservancy. Ashley Smith, of the conservancy, said yesterday that Rama had become accustomed to human contact and was proving easy to train. It was expected to make a full recovery; its injured left wing had healed and its feathers

were growing back. At the moment it could make short flights on a lead.

"Golden eagles are big, powerful birds, but this is the start of a long job," he said. "She'll need to be at peak fitness if she's to be released. Eagles spend a long time soaring in the wild and, to do this, her wing strength will have to be at 100 per cent. Any sign of weakness would mean she wouldn't be able to hunt proficiently."

Scottish Natural Heritage has a number of specially built pens in the Highlands for the release of captive white-tailed eagles and red kites. They provide a habitat that the birds become used to in captivity, and enable them to leave when they wish. When Rama is ready to return to the wild, the Hawk Conservancy will ask Scottish Natural Heritage to grant a licence for its release.

There are approximately 440 breeding pairs of golden eagles in Scotland, but only one pair in England.



Sixteen ducks and geese from a Gloucestershire nature reserve will take up residence in the grounds of Buckingham Palace today. The red-breasted geese, emperor geese and mandarin ducks, above, are being sent from the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge to replace flamingoes killed by a fox last year

Six years for gay killer of fashion designer

By Michael Horsnell

THE homosexual former lover of Ossie Clark, the Sixties fashion designer, was sentenced to six years in prison yesterday after he admitted stabbing him to death in an unprovoked attack.

Diego Cogoloto, 29, an Italian "drifter" who was said to have been high on a mixture of Prozac (an anti-depressant) and amphetamines, had denied murder but admitted manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility. He believed that he was the Messiah, that his victim was Satan, and that he had a message from God to kill him, the Old Bailey was told.

The body of Clark, an eccentric clothes designer whose garments adorned Mick and Bianca Jagger, Yoko Ono, Jimi Hendrix and Twiggy, was found in his one-bedroom flat in Holland Park, west London, on August 7 last year, aged 54. Cogoloto, from Vicenza, northern Italy, who sat in the dock with an interpreter, had a relationship with Clark for 18 months before his death. He had become depressed after the affair cooled, although the two men remained friendly.

The court was told that Cogoloto was suffering from a "transient psychotic episode" when he attacked Clark as he lay sleeping. A provisional diagnosis of acute schizophrenia was made by a doctor after his arrest.

Musician sues over riverboat disaster

By Kathryn Knight

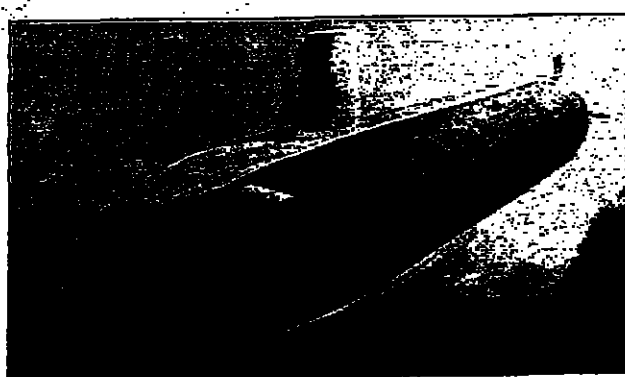
A MUSICIAN wept as she told the High Court yesterday that she suffered a nervous breakdown and had been unable to work since she almost drowned in the Marchioness riverboat disaster.

For many years before the incident in 1989, in which 51 people died, Josephine Wells, 37, had toured the world playing saxophone for the pop bands the Communards and Tears for Fears. However, she had suffered severe depression, turned to alcohol and could not pursue her flourishing career after the stress of being trapped under water for several minutes when the pleasure cruiser collided with the sand dredger *Bowbelle* on the Thames, the court was told. Her cousin, Karen Jarvis, died in the accident.

Ms Wells is seeking compensation for loss of earnings. The vessels' owners accept liability, but are contesting the amount of damages.

Ms Wells said that, after the accident, she had found herself unable to play and estranged from the world of music. She had tried to audition for some musical work, but had "lost her bottle". She told the court that she had tried cleaning jobs and café work to earn a living. She then began a degree course which she abandoned after one term when she had a nervous breakdown.

The hearing continues.



An artist's impression of the new submarine

Navy buys fast new hunter-killer subs

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

A CONTRACT for the building of a new Astute class of nuclear submarine that will be the quietest and fastest "hunter-killer" boat in the Royal Navy was announced yesterday.

The £2 billion deal for three submarines has been signed with GEC Marconi, whose subsidiary, VSEL, will build them at its shipyard in Barrow-in-Furness, safeguarding 7,000 jobs. Construction will begin in about three years after the design phase has been completed. The first of the class, HMS Astute, will be in service by about 2005.

The 6,000-tonne submarine will be powered by an advanced Rolls-Royce pressurised water reactor that will last without refuelling for the lifetime of the boat, between 25 and 30 years. Existing nuclear submarines must be refuelled every ten years as part of an 18-month refit.

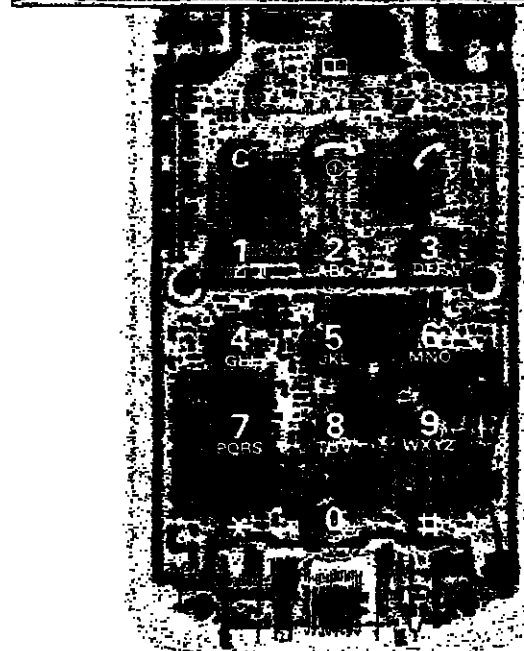
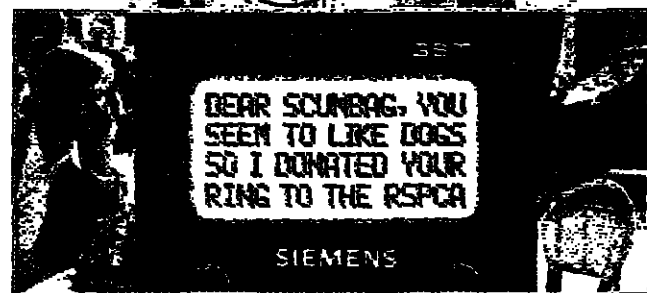
HMS Astute, followed by

HMS Ambush and HMS Artful, will be based on the present Trafalgar-class submarines and will replace the last of the ageing Swiftsure class. The submarine will take on the badge of the first HMS Astute, built in 1945 for operations in the Pacific. The first A class was scrapped in 1970. Navy sources said that the purpose of having a new generation was to start the next millennium at the beginning of the alphabet.

With the three new submarines, and two more expected to be ordered next century, the Royal Navy will maintain its present fleet strength of 12 nuclear boats. The last of the conventionally powered submarines were taken out of service after the Cold War. Navy sources said the Astute-class submarines would be capable of operating in shallow water — one of the special capabilities of the conventionally powered boats.

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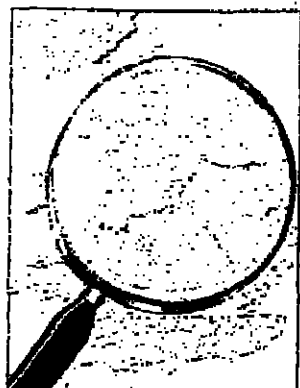
Tuesday

MARCH 18 1997

TUESDAY MARCH 18 1997

THE TIMES ELECTION 97

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- Matthew Parris on the secret fears of every candidate PAGE 12



- The marginal seats in Labour's sights PAGE 18
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A question of leadership

1992



Friday April 10

IT HAD all seemed very different on the morning of April 10, 1992, when John Major was hailed as the hero of the Conservative Party after pulling off an election victory against all the odds. Labour, beaten for the fourth time in succession, was in despair. Neil Kinnock was swift to say he would resign the Labour leadership.

Mr Major had clambered aboard his soapbox, exploited fears about Labour's tax intentions, and got home with 21 seats to spare. In the years that followed his party showed him little gratitude. So severe were his woes that he was to resign the Tory leadership in 1995 — and swiftly regain it.

Europe was the root of his torment. The Maastricht treaty, which had been seen as testament to his negotiating prowess — "Game, set and match to Britain" — was the verdict of Mr Major's press chief at the time — returned to haunt him. Tory Eurosceptics had suppressed their concerns about the latest moves towards European integration. Indeed, Europe was never a serious election issue.

Perhaps surprisingly, in the light of events to come, the Maastricht

wards by the Danes changed the political climate in Britain and across the rest of Europe.

The Danish vote provoked a war of attrition between Mr Major and his Eurosceptic critics that has never been properly resolved. In those early skirmishes, Mr Major had to fight off demands for Britain to hold a similar referendum. The Bill was suspended in the fruitless hope that passions might subside.

The growing financial crisis fuelled the sceptics' anxieties. By July 1992, sterling was under strong pressure against the mark. Mr Major and Norman Lamont, his Chancellor, were forced to rule out a devaluation.

Labour, with John Smith in the



Wednesday September 16

saddle after a landslide victory over Bryan Gould, was recovering fast. Mr Lamont borrowed £7 billion on the foreign markets to protect the pound. It was to no avail.

Black Wednesday, September 16, arrived.

The night before, a leak suggesting that Helmut Schlesinger, President of the Bundesbank, wanted the pound devalued was the trigger that turned a serious problem into a crisis. After the worst day of their political lives, Mr Major and Mr Lamont gave up the unequal struggle and floated the pound. Mr Lamont, looking pale after a day of utter turmoil on the financial markets, appeared on the steps of the Treasury to announce that Britain had pulled out of the European exchange-rate mechanism (ERM).

Interest rates had been raised by 5 percentage points in a single day as Mr Lamont and Mr Major fought a futile battle to save the pound's parity against the mark. The central plank of the Government's economic policy had collapsed, its reputation for competence damaged almost beyond repair.

Neither the Government nor Mr Major ever fully recovered. The Government's troubles multiplied. The resignation of David

Two events during this past Parliament changed the face of British politics for ever: the collapse of the Government's exchange rate policy on September 16, 1992, and the death of John Smith on May 12, 1994. Philip Webster looks back

Mellor, the Heritage Secretary, after a colourful affair with a young actress was the first of a series of scandals that were to dog the Government over the five years of the Parliament.

Michael Heseltine provoked a huge row by announcing the closure of 31 coalmines with the loss of 30,000 jobs. Mr Heseltine faced a Tory revolt and was forced to back down.

On November 4, Mr Major's premiership almost ended prematurely when another Commons vote on Maastricht was won by three votes, but only because the Prime Minister himself and Mr Heseltine had twisted arms in the minutes before the division. Defeat at that time would have finished off Mr Major.

IF ANYTHING, 1993 was worse. A bizarre dispute over the Government having helped to pay Mr Lamont's legal bills for the eviction of a sex therapist from his London home added to the pressure on the



Thursday May 27

embattled Chancellor, who was to be sacked by Mr Major during a reshuffle in May. Mr Lamont marked his departure with a vicious attack on the Prime Minister's leadership.

Misfortune continued to befall ministers. Michael Mates resigned over his support for the fugitive tycoon Asil Nadir. Maastricht got through but not without further problems.

There was a final glitch on the



Thursday July 22

social chapter that led to a confidence vote. By-elections fell to Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

1994

BY APRIL 1994 the Tories had reached their lowest level of popularity. Then on May 12 John Smith, who had replaced Neil Kinnock as Labour leader after the election defeat in 1992, collapsed at his Barbican flat after suffering a second heart attack. He died in hospital shortly afterwards.

Mr Smith's death gave Mr Major breathing space. The Labour leader was never a convinced "moderniser", but he had carried on the reforms started by Mr Kinnock and his crucial victory came at the party conference in 1993 when he pushed through rules



Thursday May 12

for parliamentary candidates to be selected solely by members of the party. A rousing speech in his support by John Prescott had turned the tide.

Mr Smith, who brilliantly bal-

anced the aspirations of the modernisers and the traditionalists, left the Labour Party more united and more trusted than it had been since the early Sixties. But even before he died, the modernisers, of whom Mr Blair and Gordon Brown were the leaders, had been frustrated by Mr Smith's caution.

Both wanted to succeed him but Mr Brown eventually deferred to Mr Blair, who won a convincing victory over Mr Prescott, who was to become his deputy, and Margaret Beckett. The stage was set for the revolution to continue — for Mr Blair to speed up the pace of Labour's internal reforms and



Thursday July 21

effectively turn it into a different party with the best chance of returning to power for 18 years.

That summer, Mr Blair decided to scrap Clause Four, the commitment to nationalisation in Labour's constitution. By now the party hardly paid lip service to this symbol of its socialist past, but both Mr Kinnock and Mr Smith had balked at its removal, believing it to be a step too far for the party's traditionalist wing.

After receiving the backing of Mr Prescott, and announcing the move to a stunned conference, Mr Blair was able to exploit the huge goodwill towards him and to get rid of the hallowed clause. This was a battle to change the soul of the party and Mr Blair's victory on April 29, 1995, did more than anything else to convince the electorate that the Labour Party had changed. Afterwards he opened his heart to the conference:

"I wasn't born into this party. I chose it... if sometimes I seem a little overhasty and over-urgent, it's for one reason only: I can't stand these people, these Tories, being in government over our country."

Mr Blair has maintained the mastery over his party that enabled him to overturn its history. He has easily ridden controversial personal decisions, such as sending his son to an opt-out school and backing Harriet Harman, his Shadow Health Secretary, when she sent hers to a grammar school. Mr Blair has been forgiven everything because his party sees him as a winner.

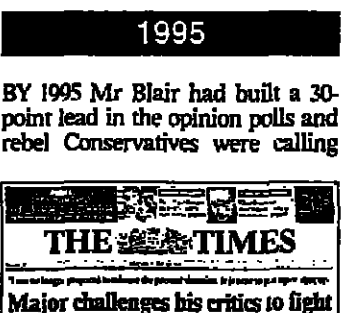
Mr Major has been seen in the



Monday November 28

opposite light by his party. He has faced an unrelenting struggle to survive in spite of his successes and his much acclaimed attempt to bring peace to Northern Ireland after the Downing Street declaration in December 1993.

By-elections continued to eat away at his majority, the European elections of 1994 went to Labour by a landslide, and by the end of that year he was again threatening resignation with a self-imposed "suicide pact" over the vote on the European budget that led to nine Tory rebels losing the party whip.



Thursday June 22

Major challenges his critics to fight



Monday June 27

for a leadership contest to "clear the air". They claimed to have at least 70 MPs backing a challenge that autumn, but Mr Major, who has always prided himself on being a gambler, took the biggest wager of his life.

He called reporters to the Downing Street rose garden and put his leadership on the line. His enemies were thrown into confusion. John Redwood resigned from the Cabinet to challenge him.

When the contest came on July 4 Mr Major's margin of victory, 218 votes to 89, was not spectacular but it was enough to kill off the threat to his leadership for the rest of the Parliament.

For many Tories who thought the leadership would have been Mr



Tuesday July 4

Heseltine's for the taking, the most puzzling aspect of the affair was his failure to strike. However, he could only have come in if Mr Major had gone out after the first ballot, and, as he was to disclose later, he had already been offered the post of Deputy Prime Minister by a wily Mr Major.

If there was a turning point for Mr Major, the victory over Mr Redwood was it. The polls did not much improve and the majority kept on falling as by-elections were lost and Alan Howarth, Emma Nicholson and Peter Thurnham defected, but his detractors now accepted that, for better or worse, he would be taking the Tories

Continued on page 12

ELECTION 97

There is nothing so humiliating as a candidate's forced march up a stranger's garden path

Hell holds no horrors to compare with standing for Parliament. There is nothing — no.

still haunt the dreams of Tory Boy, a new and if anything more horrific nightmare troubles the Conservative candidate's sleep. The garden is immaculate, the

Old soldiers polish their medals and bandage wounds

Who else offers such a spread of bets on the election?

CITY INDEX

Aura of sleaze persisted to the end

use of the inconven

On February 27: an early selection would have wiped that out, Labour's attempt to force the issue with a censure motion against the Agriculture Minister failed.

The Prime Minister has been unusually relaxed since the turn of the year. The reason is obvious. He will be glad to see the back of this Parliament and, starting so far back, there may be less pressure on him than Mr Blair. Soon their parties will know which of them has really backed a winner.

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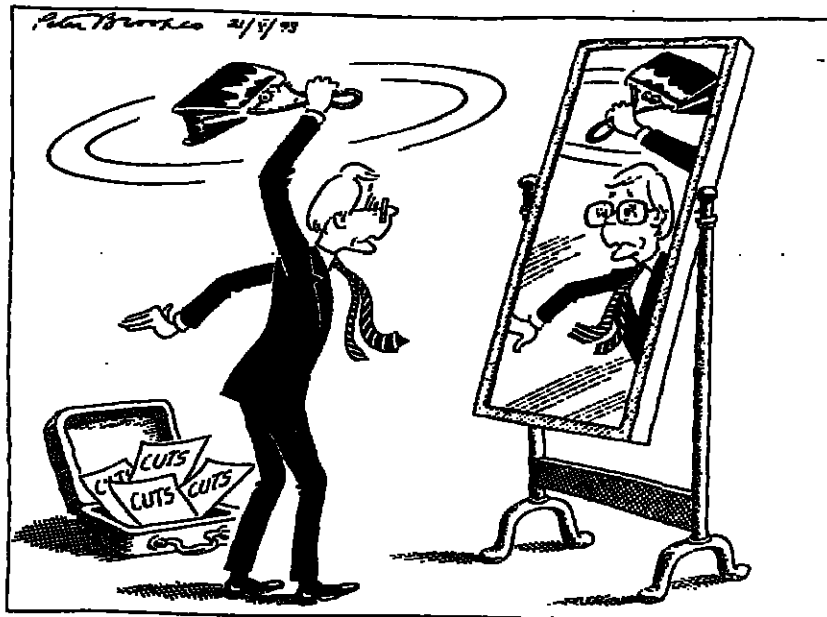
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ELECTION 97

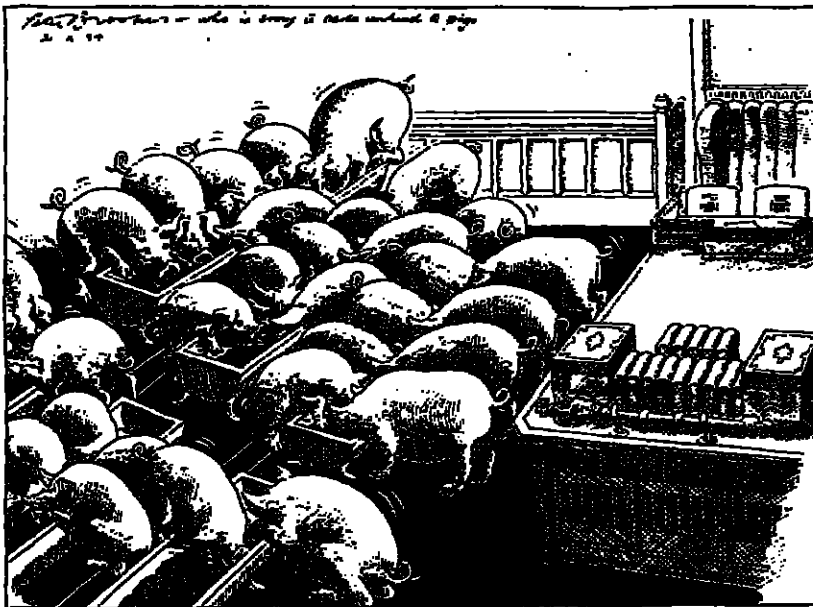
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Peter Brookes had his sights on the Government and Opposition throughout Major's reign

How The Times drew the battle lines



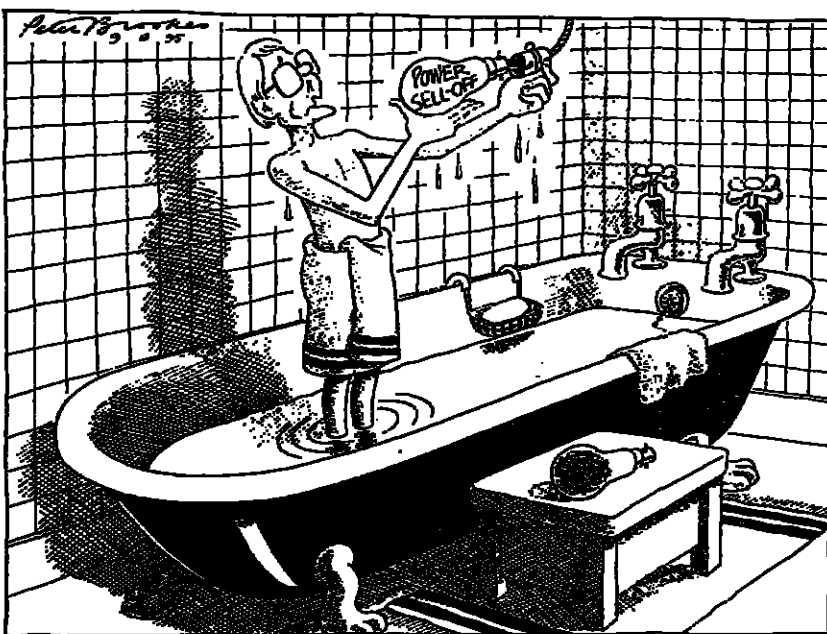
May 21, 1993: Major gets tough à la Thatcher



October 21, 1994: MPs launching an inquiry into "cash for questions"



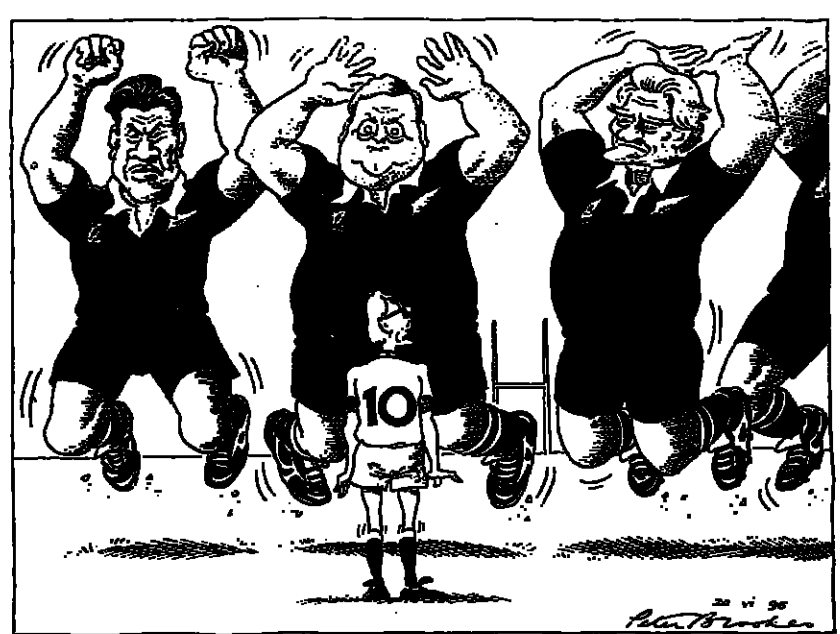
January 2, 1995: Some ties no longer bind, as Camilla Parker Bowles said "We have grown apart and there is little of common interest between us... we have therefore decided to seek divorce..."



March 9, 1995: Privatisation gave power to the people, not without sparks



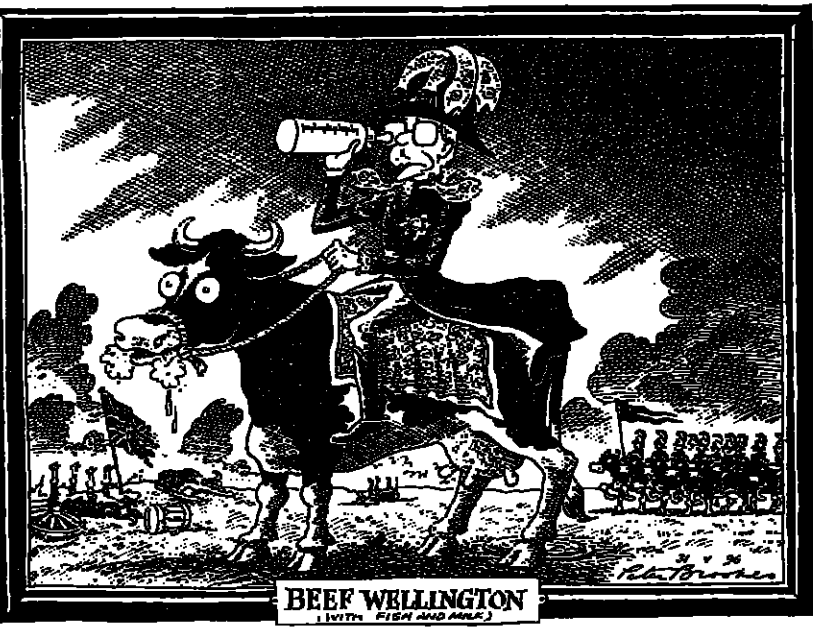
March 24, 1995: A chip off the old block helps Blair to cast Labour anew



June 29, 1995: An All-Black outlook in the Tory leadership contest



October 20, 1995: First among equals — the Shadow Cabinet elections



May 31, 1996: British food crises provoke an open revolt in Europe



October 18, 1996: Clare Short finds a son and Blair finds himself

Death, defeat and defections: how the Tories lost a 21-seat majority

The Tory majority in the Commons has declined gradually since the April 1992 election, but the Major Government has still been able to survive its full five years and to enact almost all its planned programme with few defeats. The Tories had a majority of only 21 over all other parties in April 1992 but in many ways the key figure was the Tory margin of 64 over Labour, since the smaller opposition parties have seldom all voted to their full strength and on the same side. Since then, the Tories have lost eight seats in by-elections (four to the Liberal Democrats, three to Labour and one to the Scottish nationalists) and three defectors to other parties (two to the Liberal Democrats and one to Labour).

The first vacancy came ten months after the election in February 1993 at Newbury, after the death of Judith Chaplin, who had been political secretary to John Major in 1990-91. That was followed by a vacancy in Christchurch in May 1993 after the death of Robert Adley. The Liberal Democrats won the two subsequent by-elections on big swings. But it was not really until the mid-point of the parliament in autumn 1994 that the Government's majority came under threat. This was less because of by-elections since only a further two vacancies had occurred by then, in Eastleigh and Dudley West: the former another victory for the Liberal Democrats and the latter for Labour.

Serious problems appeared in November 1994 over

Europe when eight Tory sceptics voted against a three-line whip over legislation on the EU budget. They immediately lost the whip, and were joined by Sir Richard Body. A week later they voted with the opposition parties after the Budget to defeat the second stage of the increase in VAT on domestic fuel.

In theory, the Government went into a minority for the first time since the minority Callaghan Government in 1976. But, apart from the VAT vote, the whippers ones, as they became known, made little practical difference to the Government's management of the Commons over the five months before the whip was restored to eight of them in April 1995. Sir Richard did not return to the fold until January 1996.

The Tories' problems increased during 1995 when



PETER RIDDELL

three more Tory MPs died, leading to by-election victories for the Scottish nationalists in Perth and Kinross, the Liberals in Littleborough and Saddleworth and Labour in Staffordshire South East. However, the real shock

came with the defections of Alan Howarth to Labour in October 1995 and of Emma Nicholson to the Liberal Democrats just after Christmas in December 1995. A couple of months later, Peter Thurnham resigned the Tory whip and remained in limbo until October 1996 when he joined the Liberal Democrats. That reduced the Tory majority to one.

The Conservative majority disappeared when Barry Porter died in November 1996, triggering the by-election in Wirral South held on February 27. The Tories formally went into a minority in January this year when Iain Mills, the Tory MP for Meriden, died, but this was quickly offset by the death of Martin Redmond, the Labour member for the Don Valley.

This rate of attrition, losing roughly two MPs a year, is not

high by historic standards. In the shorter 1966-70 Parliament, Labour lost 15 seats in by-elections, while the Labour Government of 1974-79 lost seven seats in by-elections (six to the Tories and one to the Liberals) and suffered three defections to other parties. Labour had only won in October 1974 by a tiny majority of four (excluding the Speaker). The majority did not disappear until more than two years later and the minority Callaghan Government survived as a result of the Lib-Lab pact in 1977-78 and because of the inability of all the opposition parties to combine in a confidence vote until March 1979.

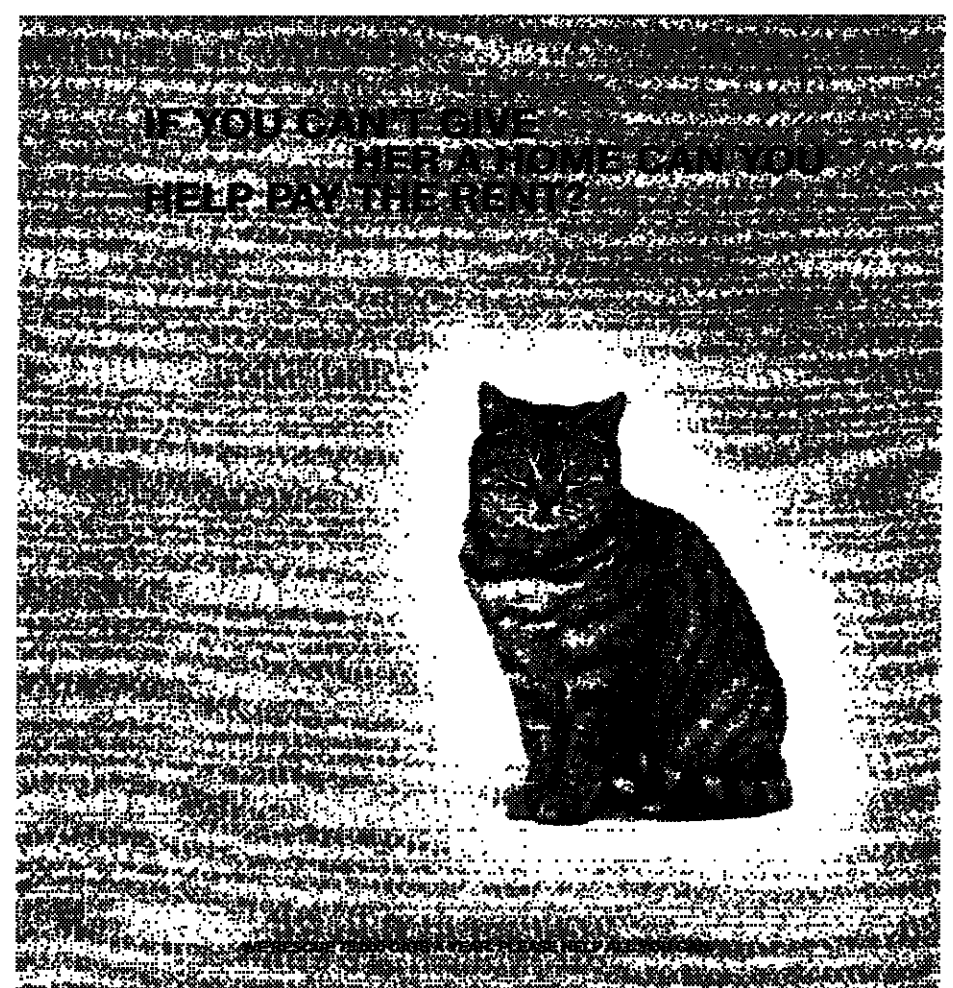
Similarly, the Major Government has had some narrow scrapes in Commons votes — for instance, over the Scott report in February 1996 as well as over Europe, where the problem has been less the declining majority than the willingness of two dozen or more Tory sceptics to rebel. But, in general, the Government has had comfortable majorities and been able to enact almost all its legislative programme with little trouble. The one exception is Post Office privatisation, which was dropped in autumn 1994 after stirrings of opposition from a handful of Tory populists and leftwingers — though many ministers believe any Bill could have been pushed through.

The 1992-97 Parliament has shown that governments with small, and declining, majorities can survive for a long time.

HOW MAJOR'S MAJORITY SLITHERED AWAY

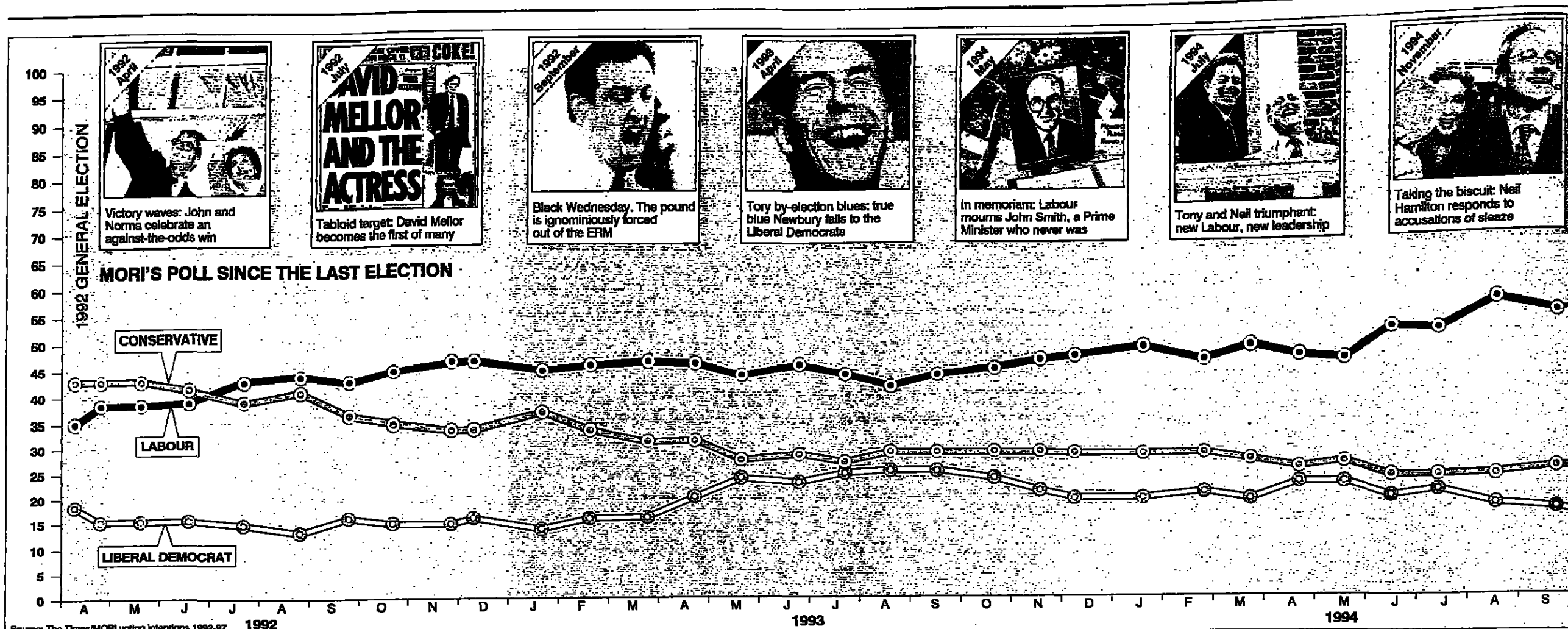
21 starting majority at April 9 1992
20 February 19 1993 Judith Chaplin, Tory MP for Newbury, dies
19 May 6 1993 David Rendel wins Newbury for the Liberal Democrats
18 May 13 1993 Robert Adley, Tory MP for Christchurch, dies
17 July 29 1993 Diana Maddock wins Christchurch for the Liberal Democrats
16 February 7 1994 Stephen Milligan, Tory MP for Eastleigh, dies
15 June 9 1994 David Chidgey wins Eastleigh for the Liberal Democrats
14 October 12 1994 John Blackburn, Tory MP for Dudley West, dies
13 December 15 1994 Ian Pearson wins Dudley West for Labour
12 February 19 1995 Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, Tory MP for Perth and Kinross, dies
11 May 17 1995 Geoffrey Dickens, Tory MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth, dies
10 May 25 1995 Roseanna Cunningham wins Perth and Kinross for the Scottish Nationalists
9 July 27 1995 Chris Davies wins Littleborough and Saddleworth for the Liberal Democrats

7 October 7 1995 Alan Howarth, Tory MP for Stratford-upon-Avon, crosses the floor and joins the Labour Party
8 December 12 1995 Sir David Lightbown, Tory MP for Staffordshire South East, dies
4 December 29 1995 Emma Nicholson, Tory MP for Devon West and Torridge, crosses the floor and joins the Liberal Democrats
3 February 22 1996 Peter Thurnham, Tory MP for Bolton North East, resigns the whip and sits as an Independent
2 April 11 1996 Brian Jenkins wins Staffordshire South East for Labour
1 October 12 1996 Peter Thurnham joins Lib Dems
Loss of majority November 3-1996 Barry Porter, Tory MP for Wirral South, dies
-1 January 18 1997 Iain Mills, Tory MP for Meriden, dies
Back to balance January 20 1997 Martin Redmond, Labour MP for Don Valley, dies
-1 February 27 1997 Ben Chapman wins Wirral South for Labour
-3 March 8 1997 Sir George Gardiner, MP for Reigate, resigns Tory whip and joins the Referendum Party



THE CATS PROTECTION LEAGUE

ELECTION 97



Martin Rosenbaum takes account of the battle of the big spenders

"OUR one great advantage. Wealth. Let us use it." This was the instruction given by Stanley Baldwin to his party managers in the 1920s, and Conservative Central Office has been following it ever since. The Tories have invariably outspent Labour at election time, but Labour is now trying hard to narrow the gap. As both parties seek to exploit the full armoury of modern communications, the costs of electioneering are escalating.

No one outside the inner circle of party strategists really knows what the parties will spend. But by polling day both will probably have laid out £15-20 million, and the Tories may well manage more. The Liberal Democrats will spend £2-3 million. Sir James Goldsmith is on the way to using up the £20 million he has pledged to the Referendum Party.

The 1997 election will undoubtedly be by far the most extravagant in real terms since Victorian times, when politicians had to win votes by the even more costly practices of bribery and treating. It may also be the last of the big

Contest will cost parties millions



Advertising: the biggest drain on campaign funds

spending battles between the parties. Labour plans to introduce national restrictions on campaign expenditure to mirror those at local level.

The most expensive element of electioneering is advertising. Both main parties have already been very active in the run-up to the 1997 campaign. According to Register-MEAL, which monitors advertising expenditure, the Tories spent £2.6 million on press and poster advertisements last year, and Labour £1.6 million. The Referendum Party spent £4 million. The parties have already booked

thousands of prime poster sites for the election.

Other major items of expenditure will include glossy party political broadcasts, high-tech press conferences, showbiz-type rallies, complex transport arrangements for politicians' tours, extensive private polling and the employment of extra staff. In 1992 the Tory broadcast featuring John Major's return to his Brixton roots cost £250,000, and Labour's notoriously triumphant Sheffield rally consumed £150,000. All this is on top of the expenses already met of estab-

lishing campaigning infrastructure. Labour has invested £2 million in its media centre at Millbank. The Tories have also created their own less elaborate "war room" at a reported cost of £200,000 and refitted their press conference room.

This level of spending is made possible by the prolific fundraising operations of the two main parties. Thanks to big increases in donations as well as loans from constituency associations, the Tories have repaid their £15 million overdraft from the last campaign and have been building up their election war chest. Labour has supplemented its traditional union funding, both with several big donations from a few rich supporters and a growing programme of contributions from ordinary members.

But while party headquarters will happily be disbursing millions, each candidate will have to obey tight legal constraints on expenses. Most face a ceiling of £6,000 to £9,000, dependent on the size and rural or urban nature of the constituency.

Campaigning concentrates on voters who can make the difference

Outcome depends on 80 marginals

The coming general election will be decided in fewer than 100 constituencies, fewer than one in six, spread across Britain (Peter Riddell writes). If anything like that number of seats changed hands there would be a parliamentary earthquake on a scale rarely seen since 1945.

A common myth is that the marginals are mainly around London or in the West Midlands. The heaviest concentration, however, is on either side of the Pennines.

To win a bare overall majority in the Commons, Labour needs to win 57 extra seats, which would require a 4.3 per cent swing of votes from the Conservatives compared with the 1992 general election. This sounds, and is, a lot. Labour has not achieved such a swing since its landslide in the 1945 election and the Conservatives have done so only in 1970 and 1979.

However, the Tories could lose their present Commons majority with a swing of only 0.8 per cent to Labour. These calculations ignore by-election losses or defections since the 1992 election, not least because, in the past, many such seats have reverted to their previous party at a general election. The number of seats has increased to 659, eight more than in 1992.

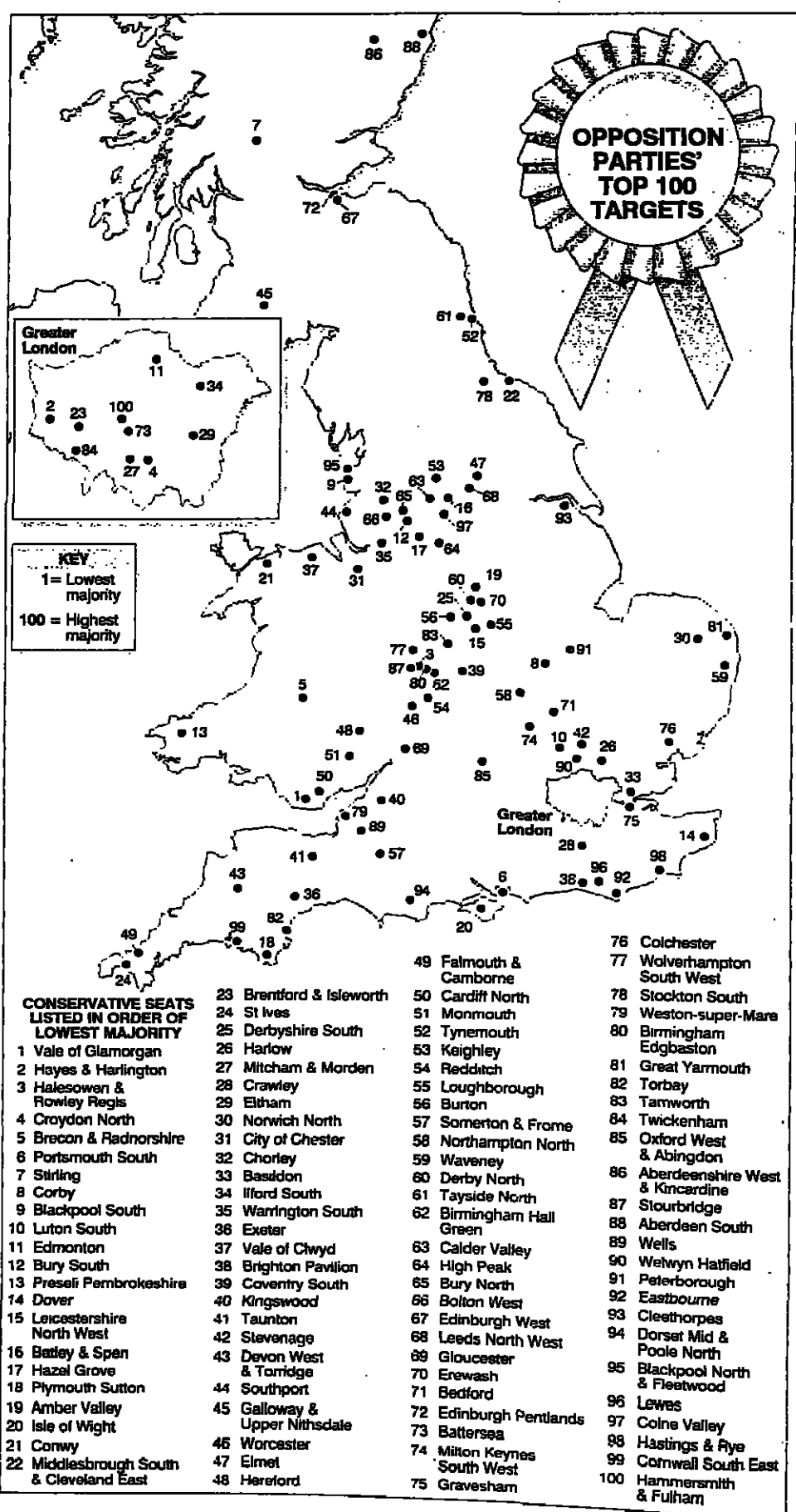
The electoral system helps and hinders Labour. It is easier for Labour than for the Tories to win an overall majority. If both parties won 39 per cent of the vote, Labour would have 33 seats more than the Tories. That is because the Labour vote is more concentrated where it matters.

In 1992, turnout was high in safe Conservative seats and low in safe Labour ones. However, Labour did well in many of its target marginal seats, attracting support from former Liberal Democrats, so that, overall, the party won 20 to 25 more seats than would have been expected given its national share of the vote.

However, the system exaggerates shifts in votes less than it used to do. Between 1945 and 1970, roughly 18 seats changed hands for each 1 per cent swing in votes. Now about only 12 seats would shift for each 1 per cent move. This makes a landslide much less likely, even though Labour has a lower level of votes to reach for an overall majority.

In about only a quarter of the seats does the sitting MP have a majority of less than ten percentage points over the occasional inroad into other parties' strongholds. In these areas, such as Surrey or Suffolk for the Conservatives, or Durham and Glasgow for Labour, local campaigns will be fiercely fought but they will attract little national attention. Labour made big gains in London at the 1992 election, so there are fewer Conservative marginals now in the capital — just eight with majorities of less than 10 per cent, with a further five in the M25 belt. For the same reason, there are just nine Conservative-held seats in the West Midlands with majorities in this range.

The parties have been pouring money, skilled agents and their campaigning resources into these seats. Labour holds 65 seats with a majority of less than 10 per cent, including a large number won in 1992. The main parties should have no trouble holding onto the overwhelming majority of their present seats, although



there are, from time to time, surprises, notably when the Liberal Democrats make the occasional inroad into other parties' strongholds. In these areas, such as Surrey or Suffolk for the Conservatives, or Durham and Glasgow for Labour, local campaigns will be fiercely fought but they will attract little national attention.

Labour made big gains in London at the 1992 election, so there are fewer Conservative marginals now in the capital — just eight with majorities of less than 10 per cent, with a further five in the M25 belt. For the same reason, there are just nine Conservative-held seats in the West Midlands with majorities in this range.

By contrast, 11 of the key marginals are in the North West, including several that could fall to Labour on a small

shift in votes, such as Blackpool South, Bury South, Chester and Chorley, with five more just over the Pennines in Yorkshire.

The Tories are also vulnerable in the South West, mainly to the Liberal Democrats, who are pressing closely in St Ives, Taunton, Devon West and Torridge. Falmouth and Camborne (though that could be a three-way fight), and Somerton and Frome.

Several ministers are likely to lose their seats if there is a big swing to Labour, including, with the most marginal first, Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, in Stirling (though many Scottish MPs believe that he may be able to hang on); Philip Oppenheim, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, in Amber Valley; Gyles Brandreth, now a Tory whip, in the City of Chester;

Sir Derek Spencer, the Solicitor-General, in Brighton Pavilion; Ian Lang, the Trade and Industry Secretary, in Gallop and Upper Nithsdale; Sebastian Coe, now a Tory whip, in Falmouth and Camborne; Greg Knight, a Trade and Industry Minister of State, in Derby North; Alistair Burt, a Social Security Minister of State, in Bury North; Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, in Erewash; and Malcolm Rifkind, Foreign Secretary, in Edinburgh, Pentlands.

Other familiar names in highly marginal Conservative-held seats are Edwin Currie in Derbyshire South; Jerry Hayes in Harlow; and Tony Marlow in Northampton North.

PETER RIDDELL

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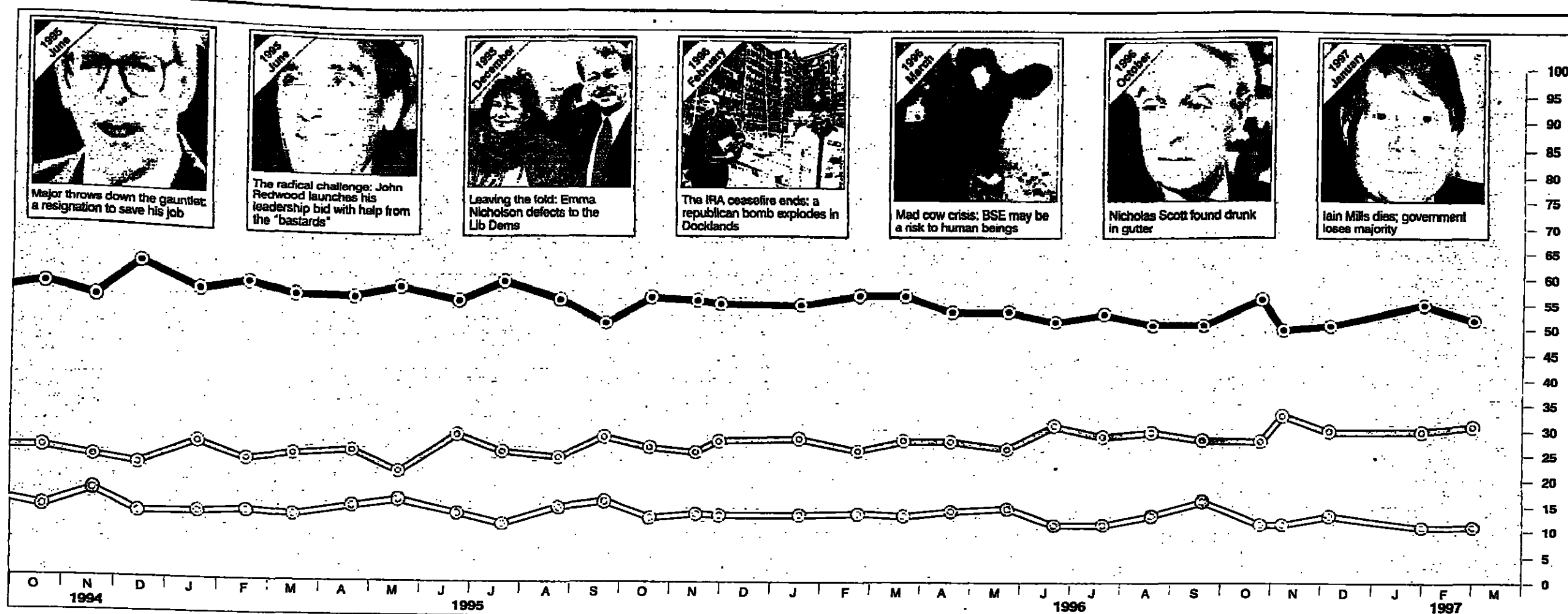
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ELECTION 97

15



Ruth Winstone on women candidates looking for a breakthrough

Bright green benches await an influx of shocking pink suits

A Labour victory, however small the majority, would guarantee more shocking pink suits in the Commons. If the party wins the top 75 seats that it has in its sights, 34 new MPs would be women. But if the Conservative Party once again flummoxes the pollsters, a 4 per cent swing in its favour would put only 13 new Tory women in Parliament.

The encroachment on the Commons by women has by no means been inexorable from the time that women aged 30 and over received the vote almost 80 years ago. In 1945, a record 24 women, predominantly Labour, were elected and this rose to 29 in the Labour victory of 1964. But by the 1979 election, despite the supposed advance of feminism, the number of women elected had fallen to 19.

In 1992, women occupied almost 10 per cent of the green benches for the first time and the unprecedented number of women candidates in this election has been due largely to the controversial women-only shortlists imposed by Labour in certain marginal constituencies.

By contrast, the Conservative Party has been reluctant to give women candidates a helping hand. There has been no Tory "policy" at this election on selecting women candidates in winnable seats and as a consequence the party could have no more women MPs than it had in 1979.

Three female Conservative stalwarts are retiring and while there are at least 58 men leaving the Commons, only two of their safe seats have been bequeathed to women: Weston-super-Mare to Margaret Daly and Epping Forest to Eleanor Laing. Four other safe Tory seats are being fought by women, including the widow of Sir David Lightbown in his former seat, renamed Tamworth. A Conservative opposition, therefore, could include 20 women.

Two unsafe Conservative seats — Slough, with a majority of 514, and Crawley, which since boundary changes has a majority estimated at less than 2,000 — are being contested by women.

In the former Peta Buscombe, a Tory barrister, is competing against Labour's Fiona MacTaggart, a lecturer on education. A fifth Conservative win, whatever its size, would feature a disproportionate number of businesswomen, female lawyers and women with experience in local government.

Among the top 34 female candidates standing in the Labour Party's key target seats, some will battle it out with women MPs. A Labour win could result in the loss of such senior Conservatives as Dame Angela Rumbold and Angela Knight, and the Liberal Democrat Liz Lynne.

At Hampstead and Highgate there is an all-women platform for Glenda Jackson's Labour seat with an estimated majority of 2,500.

Unlike their Conservative counterparts, there are few lawyers or businesswomen snapping for Labour, although



Barbara Follett, who is hoping to win Stevenage for the Labour Party



Keen: sister also standing



Laing: picked for safe seat



Clark: fighting Rifkind



MacTaggart: Slough hope

in the Edinburgh Pentlands marginal Labour has put up a Scottish QC, Linda Clark, against another QC, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary.

As would be expected, the vast majority of Labour candidates come from the public/local authority/voluntary sector, teaching and nursing. A notable exception is the candidate for Bolton West, Ruth Kelly, an economist at the Bank of England. Barbara

Follett, widely credited with the revolution in Labour women's sartorial style, has a good chance of ousting the Tory whip Tim Wood in Stevenage. Most of the women candidates attended further education.

In the view of Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham North-West, "the calibre of women candidates is far higher than the average male MPs, because the obstacles they have had to get through are that much greater, with or

without positive discrimination".

There may be several sisters — literally — on the Labour benches. Ann Keen, the candidate for Brentford and Isleworth, is the sister of Sylvia Heal, who is standing for Halesowen and Rowley Regis and is a former MP for Mid-Staffordshire. Maria and Angela Eagle, identical twins, may share the benches as MPs for Liverpool Garston and Wallasey respectively.

The political culture of Wales and Northern Ireland will remain decidedly macho, since neither Plaid Cymru nor the Province's Unionist parties or the Social and Democratic Labour Party are fielding women in winnable seats. The Scottish Nationalist Party does have a large percentage of women candidates but it would take an 8 per cent swing to gain 12 members in total, of which five would be women. The SNP already has two women members out of its total of four, but Roseanna Cunningham, who won Perth and Kinross in a by-election in 1995, risks losing it in the boundary changes to the Conservatives.

If the Liberal Democrats were to recapture traditionally Liberal country, the MPs for Falmouth and Camborne and for Taunton would be women, ousting two Tories, Sebastian Coe and David Nicholson.

What overall effect on a new Parliament a possible 100 women MPs would have is the big question: whether it would mean the "feminisation" of political life, or simply more women in sharp pink suits plotting in the corridors of power.

Tim Hames charts the biggest growth in the electoral roll in 27 years

2.6m new voters wait to be wooed

WHAT do David Beckham of Manchester United, James Major, the son of the Prime Minister, and three fifths of the Spice Girls have in common?

All are entitled to cast their ballots for the first time. They are part of a highly distinctive electorate that the politicians must woo. The electoral register contains an estimated 44 million names — the largest ever. The voting population has increased by 250,000 in England and 40,000 in Scotland and Northern Ireland, but remained static in Wales.

The average size of a parliamentary constituency in Britain will be about 68,000 electors. That figure is higher in England and some 13,000 lower in Scotland and Wales. The average contains vast variations.

Demographic change and the unusually long Parliament have combined to ensure that 2.6 million new voters have entered the register. This largest rise between contests since the franchise age was lowered from 21 to 18 for the election of 1970. The change was champi-

oned by Harold Wilson in the confidence that the rebellious youth of the 1960s would side with the Left. Edward Heath entered Downing Street.

Younger voters may be more numerous for this battle, but expatriates registered to vote are unlikely to be significant. There will be barely 20,000 such people, down from more than 30,000 in 1992. Only a handful of seats, at most, could conceivably be affected by any resident of Spain or South Africa.

The electoral register is not a photocopy of the adult population. It is compiled by local authorities on the basis of where voters live every October. It takes until mid-February to collate that information. Hence it is already four months old.

A crude estimate suggests that the register holds only 95 per cent of the total adult

population. In fact, the inaccuracy is probably worse. The official register includes members of the Armed Forces living abroad, overseas electors, and those who own two properties in different constituencies. It is illegal to vote more than once in a general election but legitimate in local council ballots.

As many as 9 per cent of adult Britons may never reach the all-important electoral register. Some of that may be involuntary, such as homelessness, but it is mostly the failure of potential electors to fill in the relevant forms.

Even then the register is far from perfect. Some 7 per cent of the names are inaccurate at the moment of collection, because of moving or mortality. By February, when the document is published, that figure reaches 10 per cent. On

election day it will be a little higher still.

All this means that while the official figure for turnout in British elections is 75-80 per cent — acceptable but not exceptional by international standards — that number is almost certainly an underestimation. Once the various omissions on the electoral register are accounted for, the proportion of eligible Britons who vote is closer to 90-95 per cent. Many of the rest are abroad and have not realised how little time they have to apply for a postal vote.

Younger people, who tend to swap houses and constituencies more frequently than average, are more likely to be among those excluded. There are probably an additional 100,000 potential electors on top of the 2.6 million who can cast ballots for the first time.

Nonetheless, they will be intensely fought over. If teenage magazines are right and apathy is widespread, the hardest task for politicians may be to persuade David, James, Emma, Mel and Victoria to participate in the election at all.

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ELECTION 97

The new political geography of the UK

Labour has already won a major electoral battle even before the campaign has formally begun — over the redrawing of constituency boundaries. This has changed much of the political map of Britain, replacing the names of many familiar constituencies.

The Tories have been left with a much smaller gain than they expected: an increase in their national majority of six seats against initial projections of 15 to 20. This is because Labour organised better to handle the boundary inquiries.

Boundaries are re-examined roughly every decade to take account of movements in population — the long-term shift from big cities to smaller towns. The reviews are conducted by separate Boundary Commissions for England, Scot-

land, Wales and Northern Ireland. These are formally chaired by the Speaker of the Commons, but are, in practice, run by a senior judge.

The process is non-partisan but is not just a matter of dividing the total electorate by the current number of constituencies. Separate commissions for different parts of the United Kingdom produce different sizes of constituency and ensure that Scotland and Wales are significantly overrepresented in relation to England. The quota in England is 69,000 but 54,600 in Scotland and 58,000 in Wales.

The commissions take account of geographical factors. For example, the English Commission decided not to split the Isle of Wight, whose electorate of 102,000 is four times the size of the widely spread Western Isles.

Less than a third of consti-

A sharper Labour input has given it the edge in redrawn constituencies. Peter Riddell explores the new terrain

ones appear such as Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire, Vale of York, and Rayleigh in Essex.

The commissions and those conducting the local inquiries have had to balance a wide range of factors, taking account of local representations about the nature of communities. David Gardner, a senior official at Labour headquarters, co-ordinated the party's local efforts at these inquiries to maximise its political advantage. By contrast, local Conservative associations were left to their own devices so that the party's overall interests were not effectively advanced.

In several cases, the net effect of the commissions' decisions was to create constituencies that Labour has a chance of winning. Tory-voting villages and suburbs were taken away from some urban constituencies held by Conservatives. The resulting smaller urban seats are more likely to be Labour, while the surrounding constituencies may become even more Tory. Lincoln has lost its Tory fringe wards to the new Sleaford and North Hykeham constituency. In Sussex, Crawley has become marginal for the Tories through the loss of several villages. The Tories have suffered badly from the upheaval in London, potentially

losing seven seats against three for Labour.

These changes have offset the gains the Tories will make from the creation of seats in the shire counties where populations are expanding. The academics Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher have calculated what would have happened in these new seats in the 1992 general election. This is based on local election results.

According to their authoritative *Media Guide to the New Parliamentary Constituencies*, the net effect would have increased the Tory majority at the 1992 election by just six seats, as the Tories would not have gained seven seats, Labour two, while the Liberal Democrats would have lost two and there would be an extra seat in Northern Ireland.

The Tories have gained less than

they hoped and the new boundaries fail to remove the bias in favour of Labour, whose vote is concentrated in smaller constituencies. This trend has been aggravated by further shifts in population since the commissions began their work.

In England, Tory-held constituencies will have 1,300 more voters than Labour ones. This means that Labour will get a higher return in seats for any given share of the vote than the Tories.

If both main parties win 39 per cent of the national vote, the Tories would win 289 seats under the new boundaries but Labour would win 322. So Labour could win an overall majority with merely one percentage point more of the overall vote than the Tories, while the Tories require a lead of at least four percentage points and possibly more.

Opposition parties must overcome the Forsyth factor and fear of the 'tartan tax'

Home rule is at the heart of campaign for Scottish votes

Already the question is being eagerly canvassed north of the border: who is going to serve in the new Parliament? Will it be the same lot of deadbeats, or will there be a fresh breed of MP to lead Scotland into the bright new tomorrow? We are not talking here about the House of Commons. This is the new Scottish parliament, as promised by Labour in the event of its victory at the polls. It is this which makes the election campaign in Scotland different from the rest of Britain: the constitution, home rule and the nature of government will be dominant issues.

Or will they? Last time, it emerged that there was a yawning gap between the confident predictions of the pundits and the perception of the voters. Despite the generally received view that Scots were avid for change, reports began filtering back from the doorsteps in the course of the campaign that constitutional reform was not necessarily the topic of the moment. It seemed that mundane issues such as unemployment, health, education and tax ranked rather higher than whether there should be a Scottish parliament. And these succeeded in swinging the vote away from Labour, the dominant party, and marginally towards the underdog Tories, who not only held a number of seats but even gained a couple.

Nevertheless, it is the future

government of Scotland that will inform the campaign, with all parties being judged on their policies towards it. The spin-doctors will be hard at work, and any backsliding will result in immediate headlines. This does not mean it will be a rerun of 1992. Much has changed since then, not least the political geography of Scotland: all but nine of the 72 Scottish constituencies have redrawn boundaries, which could significantly alter results. More important is what one might term the Forsyth factor. Mock or dismiss it as they may, the opposition parties have to react to the high-profile campaign that Michael Forsyth has been waging virtually since he took office in 1995. By challenging Labour's assumption that Scots are largely in favour of devolution, and by warning of its dangers, the Scottish Secretary has thrown his opposite number, George Robertson, on to the defensive. The phrase "tartan tax" — crude but effective — has become the common currency of this election, with Mr Forsyth insisting that Scots would have to pay 3p more in the pound under a tax-raising parliament in Edinburgh.

Labour protests that nothing of the sort would happen if the Scots did not want it, but the threat of extra taxation under a future Labour government still hangs heavy in the air. Wrapping himself in the Scottish flag, Mr Forsyth is seeking to convince the voters



MAGNUS LINKLATER

that he, rather than new Labour, has the interests of the country at heart.

At the same time, Labour has caused anxiety among some of its supporters by promising a two-question referendum before Scotland commits itself to a parliament of its own. Old hands wondered why this was necessary, since they had already believed it was an unconditional part of the manifesto. They also suspected that this was yet another example of policy being imposed from London rather than grown at home. The referendum issue has significantly added to tensions between new and old Labour, though polls still indicate that most Scottish voters would say "yes" to both questions — on the principle of a Scottish parliament, and on

whether it should have tax-varying powers.

Despite these hiccups, Labour is likely to hold most if not all of its 49 seats. Indeed, the chances are that the party could add more, despite being almost at saturation point. The determination to win at all costs is still a more significant factor than the very real fault-lines within the party, which may show up in the aftermath of an election, but will be plastered over until then. It has its eye on some key Tory marginals, including two held by ministers — Mr Forsyth in Stirling, which requires a swing of only 0.3 per cent, and Malcolm Rifkind's in Edinburgh, Pentlands, where 4.5 per cent would be enough.

The only party which, on polling evidence, threatens its position is the Scottish National Party, standing at about 23 per cent to Labour's 45 per cent. But once again the SNP seems to promise more than it can deliver. Despite its popular support, analysis of the margins suggests that it will struggle to translate that into gains from Labour. The party would need a swing of more than 5 per cent to win the most vulnerable seat, Western Isles.

If the SNP is to gain it will more likely be at the expense of the Tories (Ian Lang's Galloway seat is in their sights) or the Liberal Democrats, who are not doing well in the polls at the moment. They will be worrying about Gordon, held by their Tre-

sury spokesman, Malcolm Bruce. Its boundaries have been redrawn to Mr Bruce's grave disadvantage, and the SNP, in third place last time, considers it winnable.

The Liberal Democrats will have to fight hard to retain Sir David Steel's former seat of Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale, and could lose Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber, where Russell Johnston is standing down (this is the only genuine four-way contest, with only a few percentage points separating the parties). On the other hand, if there is a real swing away from the Tories they could half-inch Lord James Douglas-Hamilton's Edinburgh West, held by another minister, George Kynoch.

So can the Conservatives even stay in double figures? On paper, they stand to lose five seats — half their total. But two developments suggest caution. First, the gap will narrow considerably as the election approaches — as it did last time; secondly, MPs of the stature of Mr Forsyth, Mr Rifkind, and Mr Lang have a habit of holding out against the trend. And there will, as ever, be widespread tactical voting. All of which goes to show that it would be foolish to predict the result based on current polls. The best-laid predictions of psephologists in Scotland gang aft a-gley.

Sectarian grip holds predictable outcome

THERE are barely a million voters in Northern Ireland but the fate of its people has been a persistent theme of the dissolved Parliament.

No issue, save perhaps for Europe, has absorbed so much of the Prime Minister's time and no development in these islands has attracted as much international attention as the progress of the peace process from negotiation to ceasefire and then back to conflict.

Most of the main players in the peace process will be standing in the election but even though the future of Ulster is more uncertain than any other part of the United Kingdom, the result of the electoral contest there is all too dreadfully predictable. Because voters choose parties on religious rather than secular grounds, allegiances owe

more to accident of birth than anything else.

The Protestant majority concentrated in the north and east of the Province tend to vote for Unionist parties and the Roman Catholic minority, which is stronger in the south and west, votes a nationalist line. There is competition within communities between relatively moderate and more uncompromising parties. The Unionist vote divides between David Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party, which boasts nine MPs, and Ian Paisley's trio of Democratic Unionists.

In North Down, Ulster's wealthiest constituency with a tradition of electing independents, the barrister Robert McCartney sits as a UK Unionist, to the left of the UUP on social and religious issues but as inflexible as the DUP on the constitution. The

ance Party's chance in its one winnable seat, Mr McCartney could be vulnerable to a well-organised UUP campaign. But the overwhelming likelihood is that seats where Unionists are competing will not change hands.

The nationalist vote tends to divide between John Hume's Social Democratic and Labour Party, founded on consent and non-violence, and Gerry Adams's Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA. The SDLP has four MPs and Sinn Féin none. The Unionist parties tend to compete only in those constituencies where the Protestant population is healthy in the majority, lest a split in Unionist ranks allows a nationalist gain. No such arrangement exists between Sinn Féin and the SDLP.

Although their leaders are in dialogue to advance their agenda for peace, Mr Hume rejected the offer of a deal to unseat vulnerable Unionists. Even without a pact, Sinn Féin is expected to do well in the rural west and Martin McGuinness has a chance of taking Mid-Ulster.

The best bet for a Sinn Féin gain is the West Belfast seat of the SDLP MP Joe Hendron, which Mr Adams is poised to retake. Sinn Féin prospects have been harmed by the resumption of violence but if it remains relatively low in the Province, republican chances of at least one gain should not be unduly prejudiced.

An election which sees sectarian barriers as firm as ever and an advance for republicanism is unlikely to cheer whoever occupies Downing Street and picks up the grimy threads of the peace process.

Information, including some colourful details about the parties. Microsoft is offering to send a free copy of its CD-ROM, *Communications Tools For Schools*, and is sponsoring a competition for the most inventive use of its products in election projects.

Teachers can sign up for the *Newsround Election* by calling 0990 100 300 for voting by telephone, or 0345 573393 if voting by Internet. Their school will be sent a pack on how to enter the national poll. A host of curriculum opportunities are detailed alongside a suggested ten-day timetable.

On the first day, the election

ing proper can now start. Day five marks the closing date for voter registration, enabling the electoral register compiler to complete by day six. Polling cards should be issued to registered voters on day seven. No card, no vote.

The teacher-in-charge needs to form vote counting teams by day eight and identify polling station sites. Day nine is the final day of the campaign, which could include a formal question and answer session.

Finally comes the day of the vote, with a clear deadline set for the close of the poll. Candidates are informed of the result in confidence just before the official announcement by the returning officer, in case a recount is needed. Once the announcement has been made, the teacher-in-charge notifies *Newsround*.

Jackie Lang, this year's president of the Girls' Schools Association and headmistress of Walthamstow Hall in Sevenoaks, Kent, is all in favour of the cut and thrust of political debate taking over her school. As an old girl there, she can remember several mock campaigns, including the 1959 election when she was the Labour agent.

"There was the candidate and me and that was all the Labour supporters, so I do not have too good memories of it," she says. Mrs Lang's only concern is that pupils of the Nineties are not as interested in politics as pupils of the Sixties and Seventies. "They are a bit cynical about party politics, they are more interested in world issues."

There are, of course, senior politicians who would agree that at a young age, it is not the party that counts, it is the taking part. Just ask Tony Blair.

Half a million children are expected to vote in school

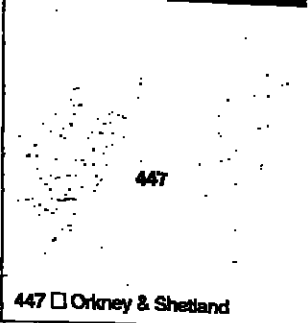
ENGLAND

7 Aldershot	245 Exeter	472 Redcar
11 Amber Valley	248 Falmouth & Camborne	473 Redditch
17 Arundel & South Downs	249 Farnham	475 Reigate
18 Ashfield	250 Faversham & Kent Mid	478 Ribblesdale
19 Ashford	258 Folkestone & Hythe	479 Ribbles Valley
21 Aylesbury	257 Forest of Dean	480 Richmond (Yorks)
23 Barking	259 Fylde	483 Rockford & Southend East
29 Barrow & Furness	260 Gainsborough	485 Romney
30 Bassetlaw	263 Gedling	487 Rossendale & Darwen
31 Basingstoke	264 Gillingham	491 Rugby & Kenilworth
32 Bassetlaw	275 Gloucester	493 Runnymede & Weybridge
33 Bassetlaw	277 Gosport	494 Rushcliffe
34 Bassetlaw	278 Grimsby & Stamford	495 Rutland & Melton
37 Beckenham	280 Gravesend	496 Ryedale
38 Bedford	281 Great Grimsby	497 Saffron Walden
39 Bedfordshire Mid	282 Great Yarmouth	498 St Albans
40 Bedfordshire North East	285 Guildford	501 St Ives
41 Bedfordshire South West	290 Halesowen & Howden	503 St Leonards
46 Berwick-upon-Tweed	291 Hallow	504 Scarborough & Whitby
48 Beverley & Holderness	295 Hampshire East	505 South Thanet
49 Bewdley & Battle	296 Hampshire North East	506 Southend
51 Billericay	297 Hampshire North West	507 Selby
52 Bishop Auckland	298 Harrogate	508 Sevenoaks
53 Blackburn	300 Harlow	510 Sherwood
54 Blackpool North & Fleetwood	301 Harrogate & Knaresborough	511 Shrewsbury & Atcham
57 Blackpool South	304 Hartlepool	518 Shropshire North
60 Blackpool South	305 Harwich	519 Sittingbourne & Sheppey
70 Blyth Valley	306 Hastings & Rye	520 Slough & Ripon
71 Bognor Regis & Littlehampton	307 Havant	521 Sleaford & North Hykeham
72 Bolton	310 Hemel Hempstead	522 Slough
77 Boston & Skegness	313 Hensley	524 Somerset & Frome
78 Bosworth	314 Hereford	525 South Holland & The Deepings
79 Bourne & East	315 Hertford & Stortford	527 Southampton Itchen
80 Bourne & West	316 Hertfordshire North East	528 Southampton Test
81 Bracknell	317 Hertfordshire South West	529 Southend West
82 Bracknell	318 Hertsmere	532 Spelthorne
83 Bracknell	319 Hitcham	533 Stafford
93 Bridgwater	321 High Peak	534 Staffordshire Moorlands
94 Brigg & Goole	322 Hitchin & Harpenden	535 Staffordshire South
95 Brighton & Hove	323 Hove	537 Stevenage
96 Brighton & Hove	326 Huddersfield	540 Stockton North
97 Bristol East	330 Hull East	541 Stockton South
98 Bristol North West	331 Hull North	542 Stoke-on-Trent Central
99 Bristol South	332 Hull West & Hessle	543 Stoke-on-Trent North
100 Bristol West	333 Huntingdon	544 Stoke-on-Trent South
102 Bromsgrove	334 Hyndburn	545 Stone
103 Broxbourne	338 Ipswich	548 Stratford-on-Avon
104 Broxbourne	339 Isle of Wight	552 Stour
105 Buntingford	340 Kettering	553 Suffolk Central & Ipswich
106 Burnley	341 Kingswood	554 Suffolk Coastal
107 Burton	345 Lancashire West	555 Suffolk South
110 Bury St Edmunds	356 Lancaster & Wyre	556 Suffolk West
114 Calder Valley	361 Lancaster East	559 Suffolk East
115 Calderdale	362 Leicester North	560 Surrey Heath
116 Calderdale	363 Leicester South	561 Surrey Mid
117 Cambridgeshire North East	366 Leicester West	562 Surrey South West
118 Cambridgeshire North West	367 Leicestershire North West	563 Slough
119 Cambridgeshire South	368 Leicestershire South	564 Swindon North
120 Cambridgeshire South East	369 Leicestershire South East	565 Swindon South
121 Cannock Chase	370 Lewes	566 Swindon South East
122 Cannock Chase	372 Lichfield	567 Swindon South West
123 Carlisle	373 Lincoln	568 Swindon South East
124 Carlisle	385 Loughborough	569 Tarnworth
125 Castle Point	386 Luton & Hemel Hempstead	570 Telford
126 Charnwood	389 Ludlow	571 Telford
127 Charnwood	387 Luton North	573 Telford
128 Charnwood	388 Luton South	574 Telford
129 Charnwood	389 Luton South	575 Tewkesbury
130 Charnwood	386 Macclesfield	576 Thane North
131 Charnwood	390 Maidstone	577 Thane South
132 Charnwood	391 Malden & Chelmsford East	578 Thurrock
133 Charnwood	392 Mansfield	579 Tiverton & Honiton
134 Charnwood	388 Medway	580 Tonbridge & Malling
135 Charnwood	402 Middlesbrough	582 Torbay
136 Charnwood	403 Middlesbrough South & Cleveland East	584 Totnes
137 Charnwood	405 Milton Keynes North East	587 Truro & St Austell
138 Charnwood	406 Milton Keynes South West	589 Tunbridge Wells
139 Charnwood	408 Mole Valley	600 Vale of York
140 Charnwood	412 Morecambe & Lunesdale	601 Wansbeck
141 Charnwood	416 New Forest East	606 Wansley
142 Charnwood	417 New Forest West	609 Warrington
143 Charnwood	418 Newark	610 Warwick
144 Charnwood	419 Newark	611 Warwick North
145 Charnwood	420 Newcastle-under-Lyme	612 Watford
146 Charnwood	427 Norfolk Mid	613 Waverley
147 Charnwood	428 Norfolk North	617 Wealden
148 Charnwood	429 Norfolk North West	618 Weaver Vale
149 Charnwood	430 Norfolk South	619 Wellingborough
150 Charnwood	431 Norfolk South West	620 Wells
151 Charnwood	432 Northampton	622 West Wymondley
152 Charnwood	433 Northampton North	623 Westbury
153 Charnwood	434 Northampton South	626 Westmorland & Lonsdale
154 Charnwood	435 Northaveon	628 Weston-Super-Mare
155 Charnwood	436 Norwich North	631 Witherside North
156 Charnwood	437 Norwich South	632 Winchester
157 Charnwood	438 Nottingham East	634 Windsor
158 Charnwood	439 Nottingham North	637 Witney
159 Charnwood	440 Nottingham South	638 Woking
160 Charnwood	449 Oxford East	639 Wokingham
161 Charnwood	450 Oxford West & Abingdon	640 Woodspiring
162 Charnwood	453 Pendle	641 Worcester
163 Charnwood	454 Penrith & the Border	645 Worcester & Leominster
164 Charnwood	456 Peterborough	646 Worcester & Worcester
165 Charnwood	457 Plymouth Devonport	647 Worthing
166 Charnwood	458 Plymouth Sutton	648 Worsley
167 Charnwood	461 Poole	649 Worthing East & Shoreham
168 Charnwood	463 Portsmouth North	650 Worthing West
169 Charnwood	464 Portsmouth South	651 Writhlington
170 Charnwood	465 Preston	652 Wyke
171 Charnwood	469 Rayleigh	653 Wyke
172 Charnwood	470 Reading East	654 Wyke
173 Charnwood	471 Reading West	655 York, City of
		658 Yorkshire East

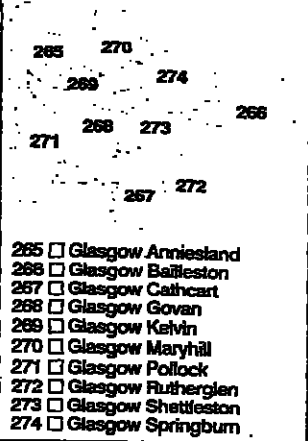
ELECTION 97

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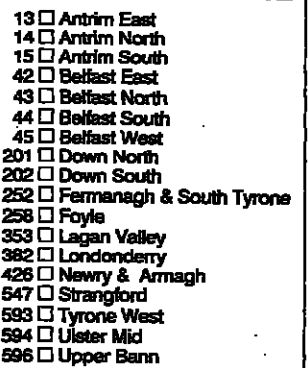
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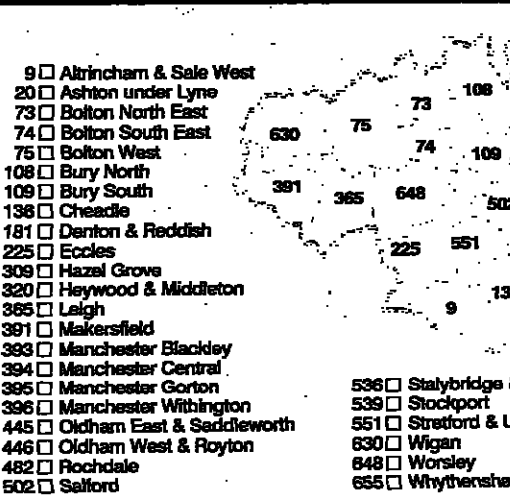
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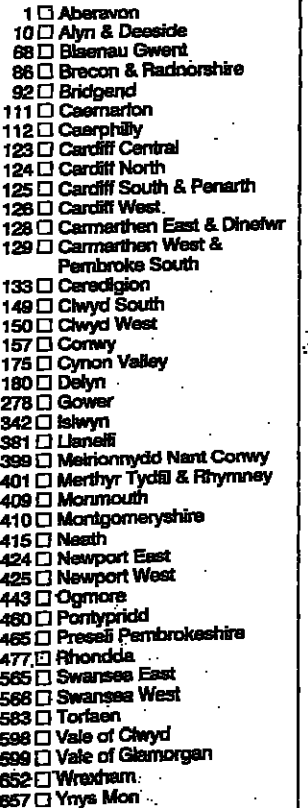
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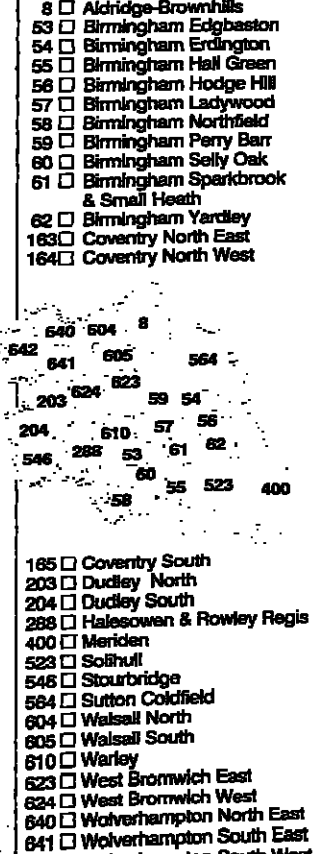
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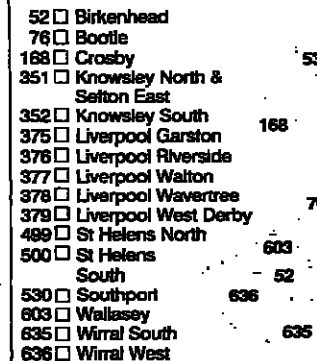
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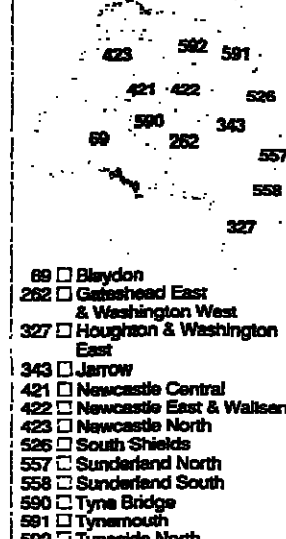
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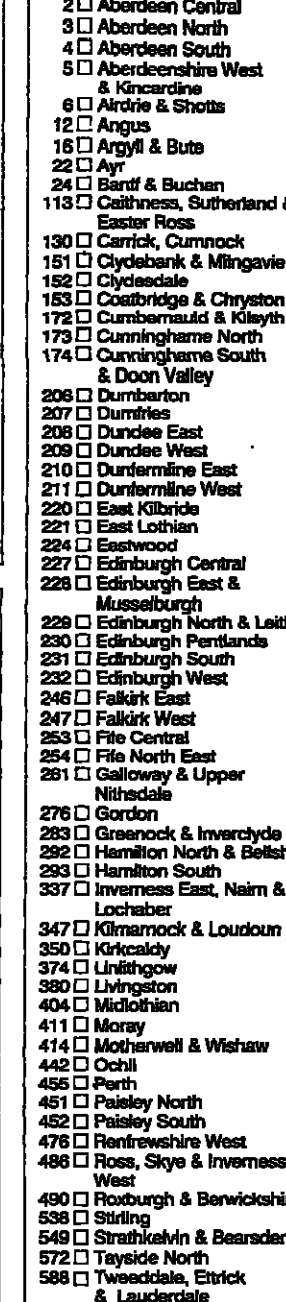
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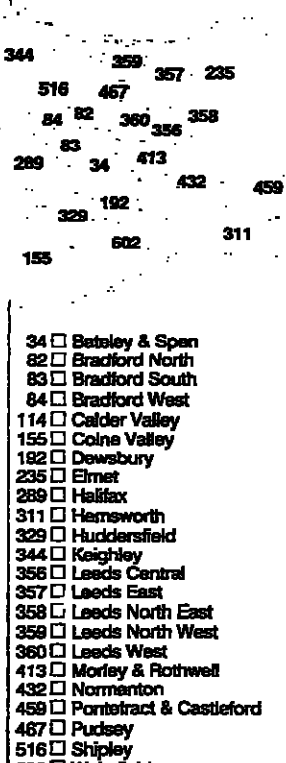
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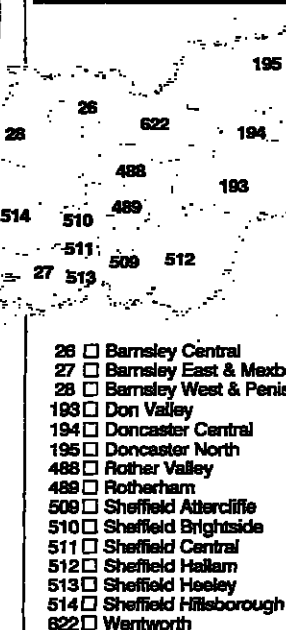
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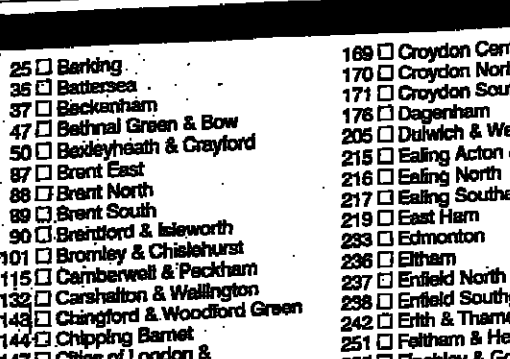
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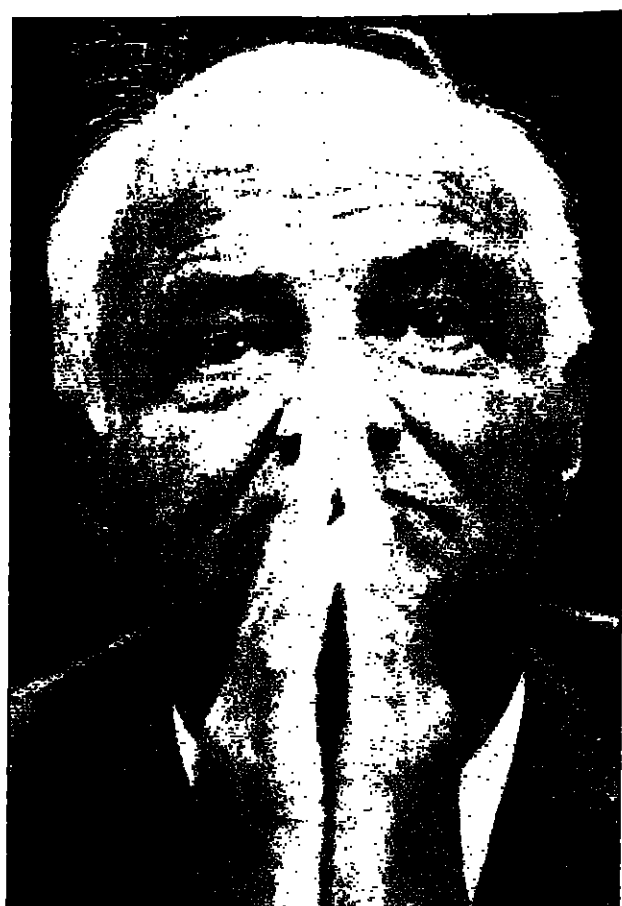
SOUTH YORKSHIRE



GREATER LONDON



Andrew Pierce assesses the prospects of the new parties in the poll



Goldsmith: leading a party of "Thatcher's lost souls"

THE financier Sir James Goldsmith has lavished almost £20 million of his personal fortune on the Referendum Party, which is fielding more than 550 candidates in the election. Few political observers expect him to reap a significant return on his investment.

History has not been kind to single-issue parties. National opinion polls show that despite a series of full-page newspaper advertisements, the Referendum Party has never commanded more than 1 per cent of the electorate's support. The party has one objective: a referendum on whether Britain should be part of a federal Europe or a bloc of independent trading nations. Critics argue that Sir James, who is an MEP in France, secretly supports Britain's withdrawal from the European Union.

The party members, reputed to number 100,000, have been denounced as a barny army of flag-waving Little Englanders, Jimmy's rabble and Thatcher's lost souls. The Goldsmith party has a strong appeal to Tory rightwingers still in mourning for Margaret Thatcher. Some Tory strategists have estimated that the

Goldsmith's cash will yield poor political profit

Goldsmith factor could cost the Tories up to 20 seats.

Candidates' voting and speaking records on referendums have dictated whether they face a Goldsmith challenge. Some of the 75-plus Tory MPs who backed Bill Cash's Referendum Bill last year were trying to demonstrate their Eurosceptic prowess to keep Sir James at bay.

It has not worked for everyone. Veteran Eurosceptics such as Sir Michael Spicer will still face a challenge. But Alan Clark, the new Tory candidate in Kensington and Chelsea, will not, despite the fact that he has no record of supporting a referendum. Mr Clark is an old friend of Sir James. Norman Lamont and John Redwood have also been spared. John Major, Michael Howard, Brian Mawhinney and Malcolm Rifkind will be opposed.

Sir James scored a public relations triumph with the recruitment of Sir Alan Walters and Lord McAlpine of West Green, who were chief cheerleaders to Margaret Thatcher. John Aspinall and David Bellamy are candidates.

Contrary to some reports, the candidates, who will put up their own deposits, are not predominantly retired colonels. Their average age is 46, compared with 41 for the Tories and 45 for Labour.

The party has moved a long way since its founding was announced in November 1994. It was launched on October 19, 1996, with a one-day conference at Brighton. The movement has grown from a one-man operation in Buckingham Palace Road, central London, and is now based in a high-tech centre in Westminster with 100 staff on the

payroll and ten regional offices.

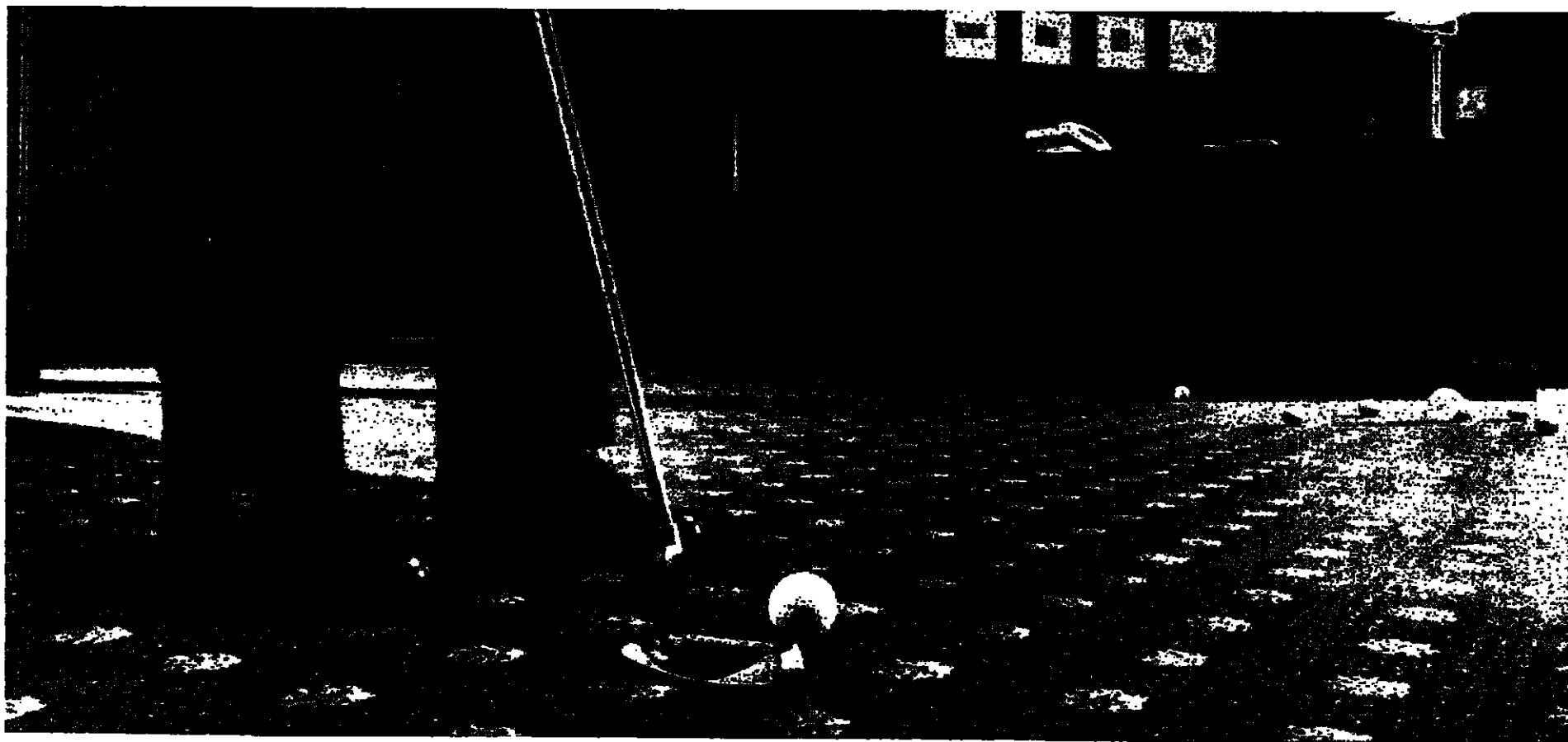
No one disputes that Sir James has focused attention on the European issue. But for all his energy and expenditure it is likely that he will end up with only a few hundred votes in most constituencies.

The UK Independence Party, which is committed to Britain's withdrawal from the European Union, has benefited from a series of defections from the Referendum Party. Regional offices have been opened in several towns and the party hopes to contest more than 500 seats. In April the party polled more than 1,200 votes at the Staffordshire South East by-election.

The Pro-Life Alliance, an anti-abortion organisation, announced in January that it would field at least 50 candidates. But it suffered a serious setback when it became apparent that £25,000 expected from Mohamed Al Fayed to underwrite candidates' deposits would not materialise.

The Green Party, which lost almost 200 deposits at the last election, defeated a call at its most recent annual conference to withdraw from the general election. About 80 members are expected to stand.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY
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Freed opposition leader aims to topple Berisha in fair elections



Nano: wants Albanians to resolve crisis

FROM TOM WALKER
IN TIRANA

FATOS NANO, hailed as Albania's peacemaker, backed down yesterday from his demands that President Berisha resign immediately.

Mr Nano, a former Socialist Prime Minister who was jailed for four years by Mr Berisha on trumped-up charges, said that free and fair elections were the ideal way to depose the President.

Colleagues praised the move, saying Mr Nano was attempting to avert a civil war. They fear that Berisha loyalists are being recruited and armed by the Interior Ministry, and that any push for the President's resignation could provoke a

violent overthrow of the fledgling Government of national unity.

Mr Nano, in his first public appearance after being freed from jail last week, showed no animosity towards a President who had delighted in humiliating him; Mr Berisha insisted that his head be shaved before being sent to jail. Mr Nano said: "I am inclined to shake hands with him as an Albanian citizen rather than as a President."

Outside the Socialist Party headquarters, Mr Nano was given a rapturous reception by hundreds of Albanians who pressed against the iron railings of the building. "He serves the whole nation," Luca Ruci, a former army officer, said. "He knows it's a disaster to distinguish

between North and South. We're a small nation."

The present lull in the mayhem afflicting the country is deceptive. There is disturbing evidence that arms being distributed as part of a "law and order" campaign are falling into the hands of pro-Berisha militants. A complete rift has also occurred between the Defence and Interior Ministries. Broadly, the Defence Ministry and the army are represented in Government by the opposition Socialists, while Mr Berisha's Democratic Party keeps a firm rein on the Interior Ministry and the Shik secret police.

In the turmoil of the past two weeks, the army lost most of its guns. In the South they remain in

rebel hands, but in the North they are now being handed to new police recruits. Western diplomats fear that something unpleasant is afoot. "I've seen some of these guys who are getting guns and they don't look the most savoury types," said one.

Mr Nano said he was prepared to travel anywhere in Albania in a bid to persuade the people to give up their weapons. His personal crusade would begin in his birthplace and rebel stronghold of Gjirokastra.

Representatives of the new Government have begun visiting most rebel towns. Yesterday Bashkim Fino, the Prime Minister, was due to meet rebels in the oil town of Ballsh; talks with representatives from Vlore were held over the weekend.

Mr Nano said the new Government was "the first healthy fruit or flower" to emerge from Albania's political wilderness. Despite the hopes of a majority of the population that Europe would intervene militarily to end the anarchy, he believed that domestic political dialogue could resolve the crisis. "My party and other political parties should act in an aggressive way as peacemaking missionaries. We don't need any [UN] blue helmets and others," he said as a high-level European assessment team flew into Tirana yesterday for talks on how to help the new broad-based Government end the anarchy. The 11-strong team will first talk to ambassadors of the European

Union and America before meeting the national unity Government.

Paskal Milo, one of the opposition prime ministerial candidates whom Mr Berisha rejected last week, said Mr Nano was the ideal man to guide Albania back from the brink of self-destruction. "He's cultivated, a genuine reformer and a good economist. However, he feared that offering Mr Berisha the chance to be toppled in an election could backfire because of Shik's infiltration of the Interior Ministry. This, he said, was the President's last attempt to divide Albania permanently. "Berisha is a very dangerous man. If he does not resign he will try to use and organise parallel structures to manipulate elections," he claimed.

Mafia thugs in Albania hold exodus to ransom

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN DURRES

EVERYTHING has its price. The price of freedom for those wishing to flee Albania's shores across the Adriatic to Italy is \$800 (£500), or 20 times the average Albanian's annual salary.

The two-week-old insurrection may have wrecked the economy and ruined the lives of most civilians, but the armed mafia gangs plying the trade in human cargo are growing fat on the suffering.

"If I put my life savings together I may have the chance of a place on a boat," said a distraught young woman among the throng on the quayside at Durres. "We are in total despair here. All our hopes for the development of democracy over the last five years have been smashed. I've just got to get out."

Yet those who can afford the journey face uncertainty from the moment they hand over their money to one of the local gangs in the decrepit docks at Durres. They may have to wait days for a boat, sleeping rough in the port's derelict buildings, only to be crammed upon a vessel barely seaworthy for a 40-mile night voyage to the Italian coast at Brindisi. Even when they arrive they are met by Italian police and taken off to a refugee camp, from where they will almost certainly be repatriated at the earliest opportunity.

They were loading up a rusting tug when I arrived at the waterfront. Several hundred Albanians, most of them young men, were packed together on the deck and bridge. Some scrambled to find a position hanging from the rails. The boat looked as if it was about to capsize even before it left the quay.

A handful of police hung around nervously at the dock's gates, fingering their Kalashnikovs, but would go no further inside. "I wouldn't go in there," one said. "It's a no-go zone for us and anything could happen."

About 2,000 people jostled along the waterfront in the empty industrial section of the port. Their mood was ugly and they quickly turned on strangers, seeing them as a potential source of cash. Many of them are armed, kept at bay from rushing the boats only by the better armed gangs.

One group debated about taking a journalist's interpreter hostage while others closed in with an eye to taking wallets or cameras. The scene is being repeated in ports the length of Albania's coastline.

"I've been sleeping here for seven days waiting for a boat out," one man said. "I am the only earner in my family. I've left them here as I can make more money as a refugee in Italy and send it back. But at



An Albanian gunman fires over the heads of people trying to flee from the port of Durres yesterday. Most of those who succeed in reaching Italy will be repatriated

the moment I don't even feel safe among my own people."

There is no longer any chance of a surreptitious landing in a deserted Italian cove. The Italian coast swarms with naval craft and patrols to catch those who try to land anywhere else than at Bari or Brindisi, and those disembarking there do so straight into the arms of Italian security forces.

Albanian fishermen have a stark choice, either to capitalise on the exodus or be

hijacked by others who wish to do so. There have been innumerable incidents of reluctant skippers being told at gunpoint to "lend" their boat to the gangsters. Ilirian looks like a pirate but insists he is innocent of trafficking refugees, even though there is a crowd waiting outside his house asking for passage on his fishing boat. He is blind in one eye, which gives off an opaque glow, and has lost three fingers on his left hand.

"I sent my family to Italy three days ago to be safe and have some chance in life," he mutters, scratching his torn shirtleeves. "They did not have anywhere to stay when they arrived in Italy, but neither did any of the others. They have probably been sent north to a refugee camp—I'm not sure."

But he is sure that his family had arrived safely, which is more than most who see their relatives drift away into the darkness at Durres. As we

talk, a friend of Ilirian runs in to tell him that he has just seen the fisherman's wife on Italian television, blinking owlishly into the glare of camera lights as she stepped onto the quayside at Brindisi after a 20-hour sea journey.

But Ilirian is very afraid. Although he sent his wife and two children together with his brothers and their wives out on a comrade's boat, his own tiny craft is in imminent danger of being taken from him by gangsters.

"There is a very well organised mafia operation here. I cannot speak to you about it in detail, but there are so many armed bands who operate in the port. I've been a fisherman all my life and know the good and bad in this town. Right now the bad have got the guns."

As he speaks, inexplicably a small boat out at sea fires a burst of machinegun fire across the bows of another. Gangs settling old scores? Freelance refugee runners

being turned back? No one knows. Ilirian rolls his eyes and spreads his hands in incomprehension. "All over the world you can predict things, but not in Albania," he says.

He does not wish me to leave through the front door, so he ushers me out of the back unseen.

"Take this," he adds, giving me a conch shell. "You can hear the Adriatic in it. It's not such a good sound at the moment."



Refugees wave after being rescued from a sinking vessel by Italian coastguard helicopters

Flood of refugees overwhelms southern Italy

BY RICHARD OWEN

AS THE number of Albanians fleeing across the Adriatic to Italy swelled to more than 6,000 yesterday, Italian coastguards mounted a rescue operation to pluck to safety 900 refugees clinging to a stricken Albanian naval ship sinking 20 miles from the Italian coast.

Southern Italy is being overwhelmed by an exodus of desperate refugees crossing the 40 miles from Albania in a makeshift flotilla of leaking, rusty and overcrowded boats. Many sag perilously close to the waterline, their decks packed with cold, starving

men, women and children, the men carrying a few belongings, the women carrying bundled-up babies.

Admiral Renato Ferraro, head of the coastguard, said most of the 900 rescued passengers had been transferred to an Italian tug and taken to Bari. All were safe. But Italian marines had to be put on the tug to keep order when scuffles broke out, he said. The refugees had set out from Vlore, but after 20 hours at sea their ship had a broken rudder and had run out of fuel. It was about to sink when the coastguards arrived.

In a bizarre twist, Italian naval helicopters yesterday

flew 36 Albanians who had asked to be repatriated back to Tirana, including, according to unconfirmed reports, President Berisha's 19-year-old son, who fled to Italy last week. But hundreds more made the hazardous crossing to Italy and the hard-pressed authorities at Brindisi declared the port closed, arresting Albanian crews who brought refugees in.

Andrea Gentile, the city's chief of police, said all reception centres were full. Those still streaming across from Albania will be directed to other southern ports, but they, too, are at bursting point. Giorgio Napolitano, the Inter-

ior Minister, said Italy was braced for a huge influx of refugees.

On Sunday, another Albanian naval vessel carrying nearly 900 refugees, some clinging to her sides and masts, ran aground two miles southwest of Brindisi. The refugees on board, including a heavily pregnant woman and a newborn baby, had to be rescued by helicopters and coastguards operating in heavy seas. Some Albanians jumped into the bitterly cold water to swim ashore and were not seen again.

Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, flew to Brindisi for talks. The authorities an-

nounced later that a "tent city" would be set up at Bari military airport for the refugees, nearly all destitute and, in many cases, without identification papers.

In the meantime refugees in Brindisi, Bari, Otranto and Lecce are being housed in church halls, barracks, hotels and schools, with the Roman Catholic charity Caritas providing clothing and food. "The situation is very grave," the Archbishop of Lecce, Mgr Cosmo Francesco Lupi, said. Some refugees are being transferred to central Italian towns and boatloads of Albanians have arrived at ports as far north as Ravenna.

UN chief launches wave of reforms to appease Congress

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

KOFI ANNAN, the United Nations Secretary-General, yesterday announced a wave of managerial reforms designed to woo American critics of the organisation.

Mr Annan said he estimated that the reforms would cut the UN's 1998-99 budget by \$123 million (£76 million) from the 1996-97 level of \$2.6 billion, and lead to a reduction of 1,000 in a core staff of 9,000.

The Secretary-General took office with American backing in January and promised to streamline the unwieldy UN bureaucracy in the hope of convincing a sceptical Congress to pay off Washington's \$1.3 billion in arrears.

Mr Annan had originally intended to launch his reform effort with a report in July, covering all aspects of the organisation. But he came under pressure to act more quickly, and yesterday announced all the changes that fall within his power. "Through these reforms, we can do even more good, even more efficiently," Mr Annan said.

His boldest gesture was to combine the three existing UN

departments that deal with economic and social affairs. Beloved by Third World nations, which benefit from their largesse, the three departments had been criticised by Western nations for duplication. Mr Annan promised, however, that any money saved by their consolidation would be channelled into other development programmes.

The Department of Public Information, another target of Western attacks, is to be transformed into a new Office of Communications and Media Services. A new Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services will be set up out of existing offices to streamline technical support for UN meetings.

Further reform was designed to a "second track" that requires the agreement of UN member states, who are now working in several committees on such fundamental changes as expanding the 15-nation Security Council and altering the amount that each government pays. Western officials praised Mr Annan's reform package.

Settlement site readied for battle

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

PALESTINIAN hospitals were put on an emergency footing yesterday and Israeli troop reinforcements, including tanks and snipers, rushed to the occupied territories as both sides squared off for battle over a planned new settlement for 32,000 Jews in occupied east Jerusalem.

The site at Har Homa, a hillside in clear view of the churches of Bethlehem, began to resemble a battleground as Palestinians erected the first protest tents and scores of Israeli soldiers in combat gear took up firing positions to protect the bulldozers.

Israeli intelligence reports have spoken of the likelihood of Palestinian police joining in any confrontation, as they did last September in riots sparked by Israel's opening of an archaeological tunnel in east Jerusalem. Nearly 80 people died then, and 1,500 were wounded, but Israel was undeterred: the tunnel entrance remains open.

Faisal Hussein, the PLO's chief representative in Jerusalem, said that Palestinians would man the tents round the clock in anticipation of work starting on the site.

Yeltsin gives tough job to popular reformer

FROM RICHARD BENTON
IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday promoted one of Russia's most popular and able reformers to a senior post in his Government, in a move regarded by some as laying the groundwork for his succession.

Boris Nemtsov, the boyish Governor of Nizhny Novgorod, once touted by Mr Yeltsin as a future Kremlin leader, accepted the job of First Deputy Prime Minister with responsibility for some of the toughest problems facing Russia today.

The Kremlin leader, who described his new minister as "energetic and intelligent", said that he had been selected as part of a team of "fresh people with new ideas" to help to stimulate the economy and tackle pressing economic and social problems.

Mr Nemtsov, 37, will be in charge of social matters and relations with the regions and will work alongside Anatoli Chubais, another young reformer, who will hold the same rank with responsibility for the economy and finance.

"This is an interesting concept," said Mr Yeltsin, clearly delighted with his new ap-



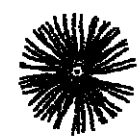
Nemtsov: intelligent and charismatic

helplessly as his authority has been whittled away.

"Nemtsov's appointment is a great coup for Yeltsin, because he has managed to attract a popular reformist with real experience into his Government," said a foreign analyst. "For Nemtsov, it is a high-risk strategy. He has taken on some of the toughest work in government, but if he succeeds he could become the next Prime Minister or President. Chernomyrdin will have to sit there and watch the others take over or leave."

Mr Nemtsov is not only charismatic and bright, but he is the only figure in government elected by a large majority in last year's gubernatorial elections. His successful economic reforms in Nizhny Novgorod, an industrial region on the Volga river east of Moscow, have attracted visits from John Major and Baroness Thatcher, not to mention the envy of other Russian politicians.

Within minutes of his appointment, he was already promising a campaign to crack down on the perks enjoyed by bureaucrats in Moscow, including a threat to confiscate the Mercedes limousines so beloved by Russian officials.



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Papua army chief sacked for protest over mercenaries

FROM NOEL PASCOE IN PORT MORESBY

PAPUA New Guinea's army chief was sacked last night after he had openly challenged the Government's authority over the hiring of a British mercenary force.

Sir Julius Chan, the Prime Minister, said the Cabinet dismissed Brigadier-General Jerry Singirok, the Defence Force commander, after examining the text of an interview, broadcast on Papua New Guinea radio, in which he called on the Prime Minister and two Cabinet colleagues to resign.

The army is enraged that a mercenary force has been hired to help to put down a long-running insurrection on Bougainville island. The mercenaries were yesterday ordered to leave Papua New Guinea by General Singirok. He said the military was refusing to co-operate with them. "We will facilitate their movement back to Africa as soon as we can get their tickets organised," he said.

General Singirok said he could not stand by and let the Government spend so much money on foreign troops while Papua New Guinea's own soldiers went without food, pay and supplies. "I'm only doing it in the interests of my own men," he said.

Jack Tuat, the Defence Force chief of staff, said the mercenaries, among whom are some British and Aus-

tralian soldiers, were being detained for their own safety. "They have been detained, not arrested, under special security laws," he said.

General Singirok said Sir Julius, Chris Haiyeta, his deputy, and Mathias Ijape, the Minister for Defence, should go. He called on "all Papua New Guineans to join hands and force them to resign" if they did not step down within 48 hours.

The general urged investigators to disclose what they had uncovered about a number of rumoured political scandals over purchases of foreign property, a road construction contract and a much criticised water supply deal.

Sir Julius described General Singirok's stand as "insubordination".

Bob Nenta, the Police Commissioner who had earlier in the day been linked with Mr Singirok, dissociated himself

and the 4,000-strong police force from General Singirok's stand, after briefing the Prime Minister.

Sir Julius said that what General Singirok had done was constitutionally wrong. He said the general was a party to the original proposal to employ the mercenaries and that he had overseen the operation by hiring instructors, purchasing equipment and training military personnel.

The Australian Government, which along with the United States and New Zealand has vehemently opposed the use of mercenaries, said it was watching developments closely. A spokesman for John Howard, the Prime Minister, said the Government feared this sort of destabilisation would occur with the introduction of mercenaries.

The nine-year-old secessionist conflict is one of the world's least reported wars and has claimed the lives of several hundred people. The rebels forced the closure of the giant Panguna copper mine, which accounted for 40 per cent of Papua New Guinea's export earnings.

Part of Sir Julius's plan was for his Government to purchase a majority shareholding in the mine, so that more of the profits could be distributed to local landowners.



Bearing up: a polar bear at Berlin's zoo shakes water from his head after surfacing from a swim in his pool yesterday

Scramble begins as wealthy flee Zairean capital

FROM SAM KILEY IN KINSHASA

FOREIGNERS and wealthy Zaireans scrambled to get out of Zaire's capital, Kinshasa, yesterday as news spread that the ailing President Mobutu had been taken to a French hospital.

At the same time, the Government

went into a crisis meeting to head off a military coup and embassies advised their citizens to leave. French officials in Paris said yesterday that the health of Mr Mobutu, 66, was "an additional source of concern in the Zairean crisis". The statement came after he was taken to a clinic in Monaco from his Riviera home. Some analysts believed this may

have been a stunt to avoid returning home to a nation in turmoil after rebels seized Kisangani last weekend.

In Kinshasa, local people believe that their President will die soon. "He is dead politically. He will not come back here until he is dead absolutely," Jean Matadi, 36, a street-seller, said.

After a five-hour crisis meeting of all

ministers and provincial governors, Kinshasa's administration issued a statement begging residents not to panic. It dismissed as rumour reports of a coup plot. But political and military sources confirmed yesterday that several groups had been trying to organise soldiers to depose Lion Kengo wa Dondo, the Prime Minister.



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Shiva: 10th century

New York museum returns stolen art

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK'S Metropolitan Museum of Art returned a precious sculpture to Cambodia yesterday in a rare reversal of the traffic of antiquities from the Far East to the United States.

Martin Lerner, the museum's curator of southeast Asian art, travelled to Phnom Penh to hand back a carved, 10th-century sandstone head of Shiva, which the Met was given in 1985 but which it later found to be stolen.

Mr Lerner also handed over an 11th-century bust of similar provenance. He had persuaded its American owner to give it back to Cambodia.

The Met's decision to return the Hindu god carving coincided with a recent call from the International Council of Museums to Western art institutions to stop the trade in stolen Cambodian art. While it may not set an example for the return of booty from earlier generations such as the Elgin Marbles, yesterday's action by one of America's richest museums was a striking acknowledgement that art imports need to be more keenly policed.

The International Council of Museums published a list of pillaged artwork from Cambodia which made its way to Europe. The works which were returned yesterday came from Cambodia's Angkor temples. Harold Holzer, a Met spokesman, said that the museum accepted the Shiva head in 1985 from an anonymous donor who did not realise that it had been plundered.

FBI gave donation warning in 1995 to White House

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THE White House knew in 1995 that the Chinese Government would try to influence United States elections, a Republican senator claimed yesterday.

Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah, chairman of the judiciary committee and member of the intelligence committee, said that the FBI had told the State Department, the Justice Department, the CIA and the intelligence committees in both houses of Congress of the threat.

The latest accusation comes as questions about fundraising and foreign influence in the election last year begin to cripple the machinery of government. Washington wits point to pictures of President Clinton, his leg bandaged after last week's surgery on his knee, as a fitting symbol of a hamstrung Administration.

Mr Clinton's promise to govern from the "vital centre"

looks in jeopardy. In the short term, foreign policy offers a refuge, with five trips planned in the next four months, including the Helsinki summit with President Yeltsin later this week. But his aides fear that, if the bureaucratic logjam of the campaign finance investigations does not lift soon, his ambitious domestic agenda for his second term will be frustrated.

The State Department is weeks behind schedule in nominating ranks of ambassadors and assistant secretaries while it investigates whether any have connections, particularly with Asia, which could be cast in an unfavourable light.

The White House has also held back from nominating members of a panel to study gambling, for fear of accusations that Mr Clinton was influenced by gambling donations.

US parade halts for Irish famine victims

BY QUENTIN LETTS

ANTI-BRITISH feelings ran high in New York yesterday when, for the first time in 235 years, the annual St Patrick's Day parade halted, mid-march, to observe a minute's silence for victims of the 19th-century Irish famine.

Blame for the disastrous potato blight of 1845-49 was laid squarely on the British Government of the day by the parade's organisers. The politicisation of the parade, in turn, generated anger against modern Britain.

As the shrieking bagpipes died yesterday morning and the pink-kneed brigades of

Irish-American school children making their way up Manhattan's Fifth Avenue came to a crisp halt, there was palpable tension before the bells of St Patrick's Cathedral rang out to mark the end of the memorial silence.

The sight of old men in black berets and thick-tipped female flag-bearers holding the Irish tricolour aloft defiantly, suddenly made the parade route feel no place to be British. Paddy's Day in New York yesterday was as Brit-unfriendly a parade as Bobby Sands's hunger strike.



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Chinese see piles of dead children in North Korea

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN DANDONG, CHINA

CHINESE lorry drivers ferrying grain supplies to North Korea said they had seen corpses of children lying abandoned and described scenes of hunger and deprivation in the world's last Stalinist state.

"I saw the bodies of dead children lying in corners half-covered by plastic sheets," Ma Qiwu, 43, a native of this city on the Yalu river that divides China from North Korea, said. "I have also seen the bodies of dead children stacked in backs of lorries."

Mr Ma and other drivers waiting beside their vehicles, loaded with 55lb sacks of wheat flour, to cross the steel-span China-Korea Friendship Bridge, said parents of the dead children had either died from starvation or cold. They had left their mountain villages and rural areas to beg for food or scavenge in cities like Sinuiju, situated opposite Dandong in China's northeast Liaoning province.

"You see freezing children huddling around small fires," said Mr Ma, who has been driving to Sinuiju since 1982. "They look for food in refuse dumps but there is nothing there. Most wear no shoes."

North Korea has suffered two years of floods and crop failures. In Sinuiju, a former petrochemical site with a population of 730,000, children were still going to school, but most factories were idle because of a lack of fuel. A paper mill was operating at half capacity, Mr Ma said.

The reports of deaths and starvation were news to the United Nations Development Programme. Arthur Holcombe, its official who is a frequent visitor to North Korea, said in Beijing last week that, while there was widespread malnutrition because of food rationing and outbreaks of rickets and scurvy, "the UN has not seen starvation or heard of any deaths". It has not been possible to verify independently the drivers' reports, but their stories tally with that of Dandong residents. Residents said the people of Sinuiju have been foraging in the mountains for edible grass and plants.

The comparison between Sinuiju and Dandong, about a mile apart, is stark at night: the North Korean city is enveloped in gloom while well-lit Dandong bustles with activity. Along Sinuiju's riverbank unseaworthy-looking vessels lie anchored, idle factories stand like tombstones, and a restaurant lies derelict.

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A red banner pledges honour to late President Kim Il Sung and his son "Dear Leader", Kim Jong Il.

On their daily trips to North Korea, the Chinese drivers take along food for North Korean frontier guards and customs officials. They also take flour or corn to barter for scrap metal, iron, zinc, dried fish, herbs and silkworms.

On his journey, Mr Ma drives 18 miles into North Korea until the road narrows; then local drivers take over. He said the ordinary people were forbidden to speak to the Chinese. "There are no shops, restaurants or dining halls over there," he said, gesturing across the Yalu river towards Sinuiju. "People look too weak to work."

Mr Holcombe said North Korea was heading for its most difficult summer in seven years since the collapse of its benefactor, the former Soviet Union. "From June until the next harvest in September, there will essentially be no grain crop available for the population," he said.

Relief workers said they fear that the authorities would not be able to deliver even the present meagre ration of 80g of grain a day per person which is already half the amount needed to maintain body weight.

Analysts predict that North Korea could collapse in two years, and it would be chaotic like Albania, another state in the Stalinist mode.



Villagers and volunteers dig mud from a river in Sukchoun, 30 miles north of Pyongyang, after severe floods damaged the embankments

Britain to donate £495,000 in crisis food aid

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

UNITED NATIONS relief officials have visited flood-stricken areas in North Korea and urged other nations to send food aid without delay, the communist state's official media reported yesterday.

In Seoul last night, the British Embassy announced that Britain will donate £495,000 for emergency food aid to North Korea through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The embassy said the donation for the purchase of rice, soy beans and

vegetable oil would be used next month. "Latest reports show that there are no food reserves or funds available for food aid distribution in April to the 139,000 inhabitants of North Korea who are still dependent of the North Korean Red Cross and the IFRC for assistance," an embassy statement said.

The donation is the largest made by the British Government to North Korea, where aid agencies report near famine conditions due to three years of bad harvests and serious flooding. The North's Korean Central News Agency said Catherine Bertini, execu-

tive director of the Rome-based World Food Programme, and other UN officials, visited North Hwanghae province, south of Pyongyang, one of the worst hit areas.

During the visit, Ms Bertini urged other nations "immediately to supply 100,000 tonnes of food", agency workers said. The UN has appealed for \$41.6 million (£26 million) in emergency aid.

The World Food has warned that North Korea could suffer a famine this spring if outside aid did not arrive. The UN officials also visited a

nursery, a kindergarten and houses, and watched workers reclaim farm land buried under rocks and mud, the report said.

The floods have devastated about a third of the North's arable land, worsening its chronic food shortages, according to UN officials. International aid groups are working to get food into the country.

Food rations across North Korea have dropped to less than a quarter of the level normally considered essential to maintain a healthy population, according to international aid workers in the area.

Bonn insists it will meet monetary union target

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

GERMANY insisted yesterday that it would meet the key test for economic and monetary union (EMU) in time for its launch, but Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, acknowledged that it would overshoot the lesser national debt ceiling set in the Maastricht treaty.

Faced with mounting doubts over Germany's ability to qualify for the euro, Herr Waigel told European Union finance ministers that, despite high unemployment, he was certain he could bring the budget deficit below 3 per cent of gross domestic product. The 3 per cent limit on the 1997 budget is the key criterion for entry to EMU. The deficit was 3.8 per cent of GDP last year.

Bonn's embarrassment over its struggle to qualify for EMU was on display, however, when Herr Waigel admitted that the country's national debt would overshoot the Maastricht ceiling of 60 per cent of GDP. He said that Bonn merited indulgence because of the huge cost of integrating the weak economy of the former East Germany, as well as the fact that it is by far the biggest net contributor to the Union.

The treaty allows for leeway on debt in exceptional circumstances, but Germany's failure to keep within the limit undermines its drive to ensure that EMU is launched without the "judging" that could presage a soft euro economy.

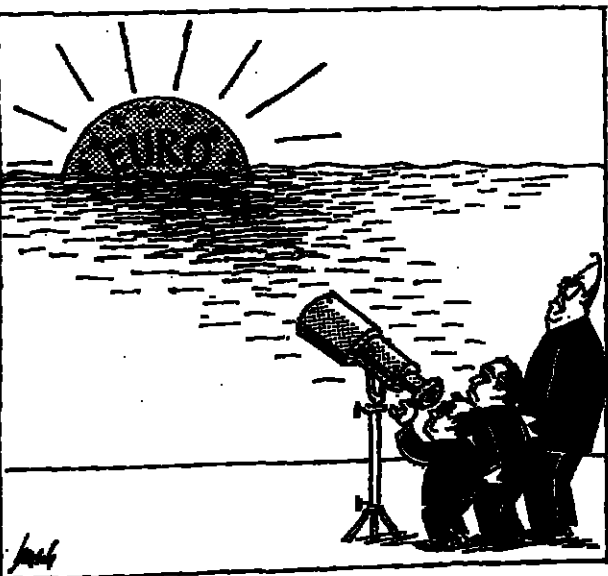
passing weaker currencies such as the lira. Senior German officials said the debt was more a political embarrassment at home than an impediment to EMU qualification.

Belgium, Italy and several other EMU candidates are counting on an article of the Maastricht treaty, which says excessive debt can be overlooked, provided the deficit is dropping towards the ceiling. EU officials acknowledged that in Germany's case, the figure would actually rise to 61.7 per cent this year.

The EU's council of finance ministers gave its blessing to Germany's deficit-cutting plans, as well as those of France, noting that Bonn had promised fresh budget measures if there was any sign of slippage. Jean Arthuis, the French Finance Minister, said long conversations with Herr Waigel had convinced him Germany would make the grade even if it missed its 2.5 per cent growth forecast this year.

New talk of delay in the 1999 launch of the euro was fuelled by a weekend interview in which Herr Waigel said the criteria for EMU were more important than the calendar and appeared to open the possibility of delay. The German minister said his remarks had been misread because he had been saying the same thing for the past 18 months. "I am amazed by this interpretation," he said.

Jürgen Stark, a junior finance minister, said suggestions that Herr Waigel was contemplating a delay were "absolute rubbish".



37 detained in Hong Kong Jockey Club racing scandal

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE scandal surrounding the Hong Kong Jockey Club widened yesterday when 19 more suspects were arrested, bringing to 37 the number of jockeys, trainers, staff and possibly illegal gamblers under arrest on what are said to be race-fixing charges.

Eighteen people were detained on Sunday by 220 officials of the Independent Commission Against Cor-

ruption. Among those in detention are said to be some of the colony's leading jockeys, apprentices, trainers, "mafios" or gamblers, and jockey club staff. Five people have been released on bail. More than 40 have been "invited for questioning".

The club, founded in 1884, is often said to be more influential than Government House or the stock exchange. Its annual betting revenues have exceeded £5 billion.

It is illegal here to name anyone detained by the anti-corruption commission or to report information relating to the case which has not been released by the commission. Those in custody must be charged within 48 hours. However, it is said that a well-known Australian trainer and a leading jockey have been questioned and released. There is speculation in the



WORLD SUMMARY

Four die in Brussels bombing

Brussels: A firebomb attack on a Brussels bar yesterday killed four people sleeping in an upstairs apartment and injured five others. Five suspects were detained.

"It was a deliberate attack with an explosive device, most probably a petrol bomb," said Johan Berckmans, the assistant police commissioner. The bar was popular with North African immigrants in Molenbeek, a working-class neighborhood in the north of the city. (AP)

Cartel cheque minister quits

The Colombian Defence Minister, Guillermo Alberto González, resigned after admitting he had accepted an \$8,000 (£5,000) cheque from a drug trafficker (Gabriella Gamini writes). Señor González said that in 1989 he had accepted a "contribution" for the ruling Liberal Party from a man he knew as an industrialist; he had not realised that he was also a suspected Cali drugs cartel baron.

Drug woman condemned

Hanoi: A Canadian woman found guilty of trying to smuggle heroin out of Vietnam was sentenced by a Hanoi court to die by firing squad. Nguyen Thi Hiep, a naturalised Canadian who was born in Vietnam, was sentenced after a panel of judges from Hanoi's People's Court heard closing arguments from defence lawyers. Hiep was also fined about £54,000. (Reuters)

Secret Punjab tunnel found

Delhi: Indian border guards have for the first time uncovered a tunnel running from Pakistan into the northern Indian state of Punjab, an official said. The 12ft tunnel near the town of Ajnala was found when a tractor fell into it during work by border security men. Officials said it was built by smugglers. (AP)

Flight of fancy

Bangkok: A jealous Thai wife cut off her husband's penis as he slept at home in a north-eastern town, tied it in a helium-filled balloon and let it fly away, the victim, a rickshaw driver, told police after being rushed to hospital. His wife is now being sought for questioning. (Reuters)

Four on trial for Jewish cemetery attack

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FOUR neo-Nazis went on trial in the South of France yesterday, accused of desecrating a Jewish cemetery seven years ago in one of the most infamous cases of anti-Semitism in France since the trial of Alfred Dreyfus.

In May 1990, 34 graves in the quiet Provençal town of Carpentras were vandalised

and the corpse of Félix Gernon, an elderly man who had died five days earlier, was dug up and impaled on an umbrella. The grisly discovery caused outrage across France. François Mitterrand, then President, led a vast protest rally in Paris to condemn racial hatred.

An intensive six-year police investigation produced little but turned Carpentras, unfairly, into a byword for resurgent racial intolerance. Hundreds

of rightwingers were questioned but released.

The breakthrough came last July when Yannick Garnier, 27, a former skinhead, allegedly confessed and implicated three others in the desecration: Patrick Leonegro, 31, Bertrand Nouveau, 28, and Olivier Fimbry, 28. They each face up to two years in prison if convicted.

The four accused are believed to be linked to the Parti Nationaliste Français et

Européen, a neo-Nazi group founded by a former member of the Waffen SS which split from the extreme right-wing National Front in 1984.

The four claim that the group's ringleader, Jean-Claude Gos, who has since died, threatened to kill them if they revealed the truth. The crime has heightened racial tension in the region, where the National Front now controls local government in four towns.



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Timeshare marriage made in heaven

Among a group of Mormon fundamentalists based in Utah, plural marriage is an article of faith. Giles Whittell reports

Wrestling gamely with a goat's carcass hung from a pole in her back yard, Luprail Jordan holds forth on her most illustrious ancestor.

"Christ actually left Jerusalem and went to England when He was a young boy," she says, panting. "Apparently He was married in England before He came back to the Holy Land, and then they went back to England after the Crucifixion, and I know that my family and I are direct descendants of Jesus Christ and John the Baptist." Mrs Jordan has another claim to distinction. She and her husband, Douglas, and two other Mrs Jordans, are devoted practitioners of what they call celestial plural marriage. As members of a fundamentalist Mormon sect, they live in rugged isolation amid the high prairies and white-capped mountain crests of central Utah. Here, 100 years after the mainstream Mormon Church outlawed polygamy in return for the promise of statehood, polygamy thrives.

It is illegal, but condoned. "Like jaywalking," says David Call, an ordinary Mormon who works next door to a converted bakery in the one-street town of Mantle (pronounced to rhyme with pie), where the True and Living Church of Jesus Christ of Saints of the Last Days has its headquarters.

Arm-in-arm-in-arm, the 20 or so families of the TLC gather here for the meetings and admin that building the Kingdom of Zion entails. The patriarchs are big men in jeans, boots and usually beards; willing caricatures of their wagoner forebears who trekked west with Brigham Young in 1846. The wives are a pale, obedient lot, adamant that their marital calling is a noble one but cautious when discussing it. Some of their children are startlingly beautiful. All consider themselves

God's chosen few. Polygamy is an integral part of their faith, and of the local scene. It is the institution by which Adam and Jacob peopled the planet, TLC followers believe, and by which their heirs shall be "exalted" in the hereafter.

It can also generate goodwill. "We certainly appreciate their business," says the proprietor of Fat Jack's Pizza in nearby Ephraim, where Jim Harmston, the sect's founder, takes all seven of his wives on group dates. But in private, plural marriage makes singular look easy.

Tamara Maudsley, an articulate, auburn-haired beauty who goes by the name of Sam, had been married for 19 years to her husband Randy by the time another woman joined the nest. "Randy always let me know that he believed in plural marriage," says Sam. "So over the years I tried to prepare myself, and when we came to join this Church I knew it was inevitable that he would take another wife."

Sure enough, when an elegant divorcee called Patti came to town to see if the TLC was for her, Randy went to meet her. "He was gone for about six hours and when he came home he said, 'I've got something to tell you,'" Sam recalls. "That was probably the hardest time I've ever had in my life. I was excited. I was scared to death of Patti, and I was jealous. I was afraid that Randy would come to love Patti more than he did me and wouldn't need me any more."

Randy has the look of an Old Testament prophet and the grandiose title of "apostle". He says that "a man must learn to govern his appetites and his passions" so that no one wife will "influence him in a manner that would bring pressure to bear on all the other wives". He and Patti and Sam have found a *modus vivendi*, something not all church members manage. His fellow apostle, Jeff Hanks,



More the merrier: Bart Malmstrom with four of his five wives. A rota allows them two nights each with him in the order they were married

who is also a chiropractor and the church historian, took a third wife last year but the quartet couldn't make it work.

"After a few months of trying as hard as we could, we knew she wasn't meant for our family," says Hanks. Cindy Stewart was, therefore, billed for a trial period with a neighbour, Dan Simmons, whose wife of nine years welcomed the new arrival with an outpouring of gratitude.

Knowing the blessings of abundant love and family support, Natalie Simmons was keen to share them with another. So after the trial period, Cindy married into the family and felt at home there, thanks not least to her observance of such common courtesies as "no French kissing in front of the other wife". (Or of

the other wife. Lesbianism and group sex have no part in the TLC. Dan stresses. The penalty for either, as for infidelity, is excommunication, as a splinter group learnt the hard way a few years back when the Lord revealed to President Harmston that the "three-in-bed" antics of its members were an abomination. The splinter group was banished.)

Harmston and his fellow men naturally insist they were not drawn to Mantle by carnality. "The sexual part of marriage is not important," says Douglas Jordan, a septuagenarian ox of a man with the fireside manner of Jack Palance. "The important thing is being sensitive to the wife's needs and not over-

indulging in love-play. I think what a wife appreciates more is seeing and feeling that she's wanted."

Still, they do have sex. To keep it civilised, Jordan has given each of his three wives their own room upstairs and built an extension for "personal one-on-one time" with the one he happens to be sleeping with. The Mrs Simmons has rooms at opposite ends of the house and tend to alternate with Dan. Bart Malmstrom has five wives, 15 children and a rota giving each wife two nights at a time with him in the order they were married. (Pam Malmstrom married Bart 17 years ago, 16 years before her first sister-wife, but this does not entitle her to extra nights.) Randy Maudsley says he tries to keep his sexual

choices spontaneous. For this it helps that Sam has conquered her initial feelings about Patti.

"I think there always is some curiosity as to, if I can be blunt, whether or not the other wife is a better lover than you," she says. "Whether he enjoys her company more, whether she's wittier — a better wife. But if you allow yourself to think about that all the time it will drive you crazy."

None of the women denies fighting running battles with jealousy, least of all the first wives ambushed by a sudden torrent of new ones. Nor do they argue with the TLC ordinance that men shall head each household and women shall defer to them on every significant decision. They accept these, like all their yokes,

as part of the challenge of celestial plural marriage.

Celestial is the operative word. Even more fundamental to the TLC than its polygamy is its belief in continuing divine revelation — a principle shared with the larger Mormon Church (of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) that allows disciples to attribute to the will of God, in calm and friendly tones, everything about their beliefs that may strike an outsider as baffling or arbitrary.

Both Churches hold that in the 1830s divine inspiration led one Joseph Smith to find and translate into the Book of Mormon lost scriptures inscribed on gold tablets and buried in upstate New York after being brought over from the Holy Land in antiquity. Both also ban the use of alcohol. Where the TLC differs is in claiming that God now speaks through Jim Harmston, not the opulent leadership of the LDS church two hours' drive away in Salt Lake City.

M r Harmston is a former property developer and lobbyist to the Reagan Administration who calls Salt Lake City Sodom Lake City. He moved to Mantle in 1990 after breaking with the parent Church over changes in its secret temple ceremonies, and he believes the Lord will come again within his lifetime. It seems fitting that he has the finest beard, the biggest belly and the most wives of any man in town.

Elaine Harmston is the oldest of them, married to Jim since 1963. The rest all met and married him within the past six years. All claim God led them to him. All had brief honeymoons in southern Utah.

All say their chief purpose now is to bring glory to him, and Elaine seems to speak for them when she says their plural marriage "refines the human spirit" like no other social order.

"It's bigger than having kids," she says. "You have to come face to face with your own weakness, every fear. Everything you've ever disliked about yourself boils to the surface and you have to overcome it."

Even so, polygamy remains against the law. Elaine betrays a hint of satisfaction when asked how they get round this. "Technically I'm still Jim's only wife," she says. "The others are just room-mates."

● A new series of Witness begins tonight on Channel 4 at 9pm. The Polygamists can be seen next Tuesday.

There is a fine line between chasing a thrill and losing control altogether, says Alexander Stuart

Sex is dangerous for everyone at first. Perhaps there are exceptions, such as the chosen few who climb the carnal fence into adulthood in blissful, fumbling innocence; but for most of us, our first experience of sex — of full-on, consummated intercourse — is fraught with tension, thrills and fear. The risk may simply consist of being caught — by parents, teachers or friends — or it

Why sex is such a risky sport

might be of rejection, inadequacy or some embarrassing revelation about one's body ("You have acne there?"). But along with this lies something deeper and more primal: the knowledge, even subconsciously, that sex is irretrievably linked with procreation.

survival and death. Wonderful and exalted though it might be, after even the funniest, steamiest sex, a tiny part of you knows that a tiny part of you has been lost.

It usually takes some time before the danger goes out of sex and when it does we have to work to put it back in. How we do it reveals a great deal about the seemingly limitless bounds of the human imagination — from erotic antics involving gerbils or sex in public places, through the potentially fatal risks of serial unprotected sex, to violence, bondage or domination.

Few of us go so far as J.G. Ballard's redefinition of auto-eroticism in *Crash*, literally to combine sex and high-speed destruction: "I have watched couples moving along darkened freeways at night, men and women on the verge of orgasm, their cars speeding in a series of inviting trajectories towards the flash-

ing headlights of the oncoming traffic stream."

But who cannot at some point identify with the thrilling anxiety of deceit — often seductive enough in itself — as experienced by Sabina in Anais Nin's *A Spy in the House of Love*: "It was when she saw the lives of the spies that she realised fully the tension with which she lived every moment, equal to theirs. The fear of committing themselves... of talking in their sleep, of carelessness of accent

or behaviour, the need for continuous pretending, quick improvisations of motivations, quick justifications of their presence here or there."

Men, straight men anyway, tend to treat dangerous sex much as they would a risky sport. We might take a chance, but we want to be in control. A little spice is all very well, but the ultimate thrill of abandoning yourself totally to someone — or even of simply trusting someone (especially

than you) — is taking danger to the extreme. We feel emasculated if we don't have the upper hand.

But why is danger so attractive? Is it because at its most basic level, as a means of reproducing our genes, sex in the wild was once fraught with risk, and the real or imagined threat of death and danger simply gets those ancient reproductive hormones pumping? Or is it that, psychologically, too, we're reaching back — back to the thrills of those first adolescent fumbings, back to the intensity and anarchy of childhood, the closest point in our over-civilised lives to the primal call of the jungle?

The irony, of course, is that just as sex may mark the point at which we finally escape perceived childhood innocence into adulthood, for the rest of our sexual lives we spend much of the time trying to climb back into the freedom and anarchy we lost.

● Alexander Stuart is the author of *The War Zone* (Vintage Books, £4.99) and *Life on Mars* (Black Swan, £7.99).

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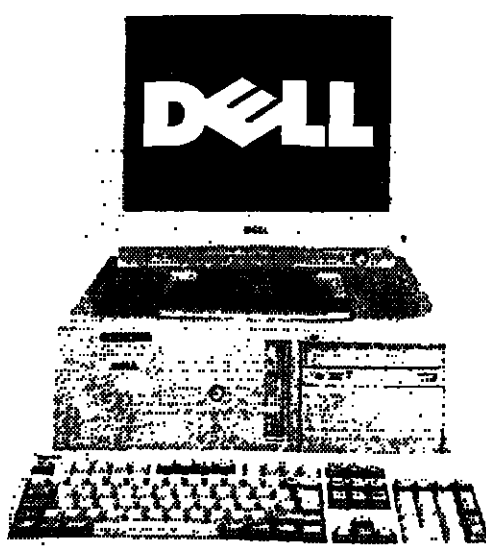
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Nicholas Budgen refuses to be silenced — even by John Major

**The boil
will burst
if we
patronise
the people**

The author is Conservative MP for Wolverhampton South-West.

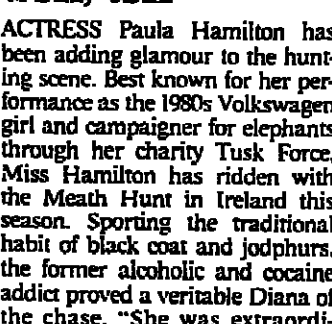


Why aren't the young excited about the election? Who will get the Swampy vote?

Libby Purves

I wish for some miracle to kindle them this time; if not we should be worried. The next generation needs to be reminded that even as we all bore the pants off them for the next six weeks with election overkill, something genuinely important is happening. This plodding, paper-bound, tiresome, flawed, irritating democratic process is as vital to our wellbeing as clean water. If you want proof, watch the news from Albania.

The very house where Ruby conducted her interview could be yours



● **Lord Runcie**, the former Archbishop of Canterbury who hit the headlines with his attack on claphappy services, conducted a confirmation service at Summerfields, the Oxford prep school, the other

At first, he found success. Then



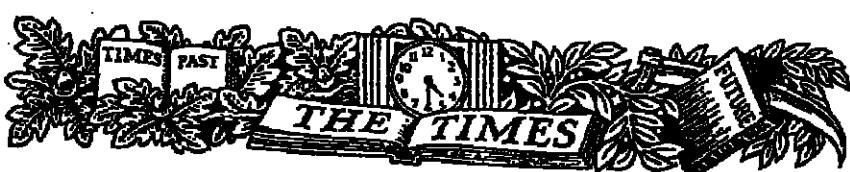
debates will show

[illegible]

Mr Major's advisers should insist on an informal atmosphere in which he can chat in friendly fashion to the questioners, relaxed but calling on his professional, simply presented knowledge of detail and his long experience of government. Mr Major's looks and sounds more honest and reliable than his rival, Mr Blair's advisers would doubtless recommend that he stand at a rostrum. In public address, not cosy conversation, is his forte. Mr Major, who needs no advice from me, will, I

Air Vice-Marshall David Hawkins, Yeoman Usher of the Black Rod and deputy serjeant-at-arms, is appealing for calm after one of the messages last week ran: "Can I Help You Sir" is enough to deter." Next day this was followed by: "Can I Help You Madam?" "I don't know you from Adam." The cryptic missives were deemed too racy by half.

P·H·S



THE PEOPLE'S TEST

Time to revisit the arguments — for all-change and for none

For months we have heard this general election will be a dull old thing, that there is little to choose between the parties, that a vote is barely worth its exercise. Over the coming weeks it is up to the politicians, the media and the people of this country to belie those easy claims. This ought to be the most fascinating election season since 1979. There is every chance of power changing hands for the first time in 18 years. Whether voters see this as exhilarating or terrifying will depend on their inclinations and their imaginations. But dull it should not be.

Even as the platitudes fall thick, the advertisements irritate and the slogans go stale, the electorate, from today, will be in charge; the politicians are their servants. The voters now are free: free to punish incompetence or lack of preparation; free to reward prudence or boldness.

The Times will support this pursuit. This newspaper, alone among its competitors, still has an open mind about the result of the election. We shall be putting all parties to the test; their policies, the character of their leaders, their trustworthiness. Throughout the campaign, our election guides will offer readers the most dispassionate analysis of issues. When polling day is near, we shall declare a preference; but not until we have seen how soundly each party stands up to the people's test.

For, however primitive they appear to be, however demeaning and distorting, general election campaigns are still the least bad method of testing those who claim to power. Labour has many questions to answer: under the magnifying glass of a campaign, and especially in a public debate, evasion will no longer be an option for Mr Blair. The Conservatives must be challenged hard. On the mixed record of the past five years, they have no pre-eminent claim to be re-elected. What do they plan for the next five? How do they intend to re-engage with those who have given them up for lost?

Neither party has yet given a satisfactory answer on the single currency, the biggest issue for the country in the next parliament.

Mr Blair toughened his stance yesterday, by citing "formidable obstacles" to joining in the first wave. But many in his party see those obstacles vanishing should Labour win a big majority and hold an immediate referendum in the aftermath of victory. Does Mr Blair agree with them? John Major is no surer in his replies. Labour's "formidable obstacles" translate into the Tories' "very unlikely" entry in 1999. Both leave room for doubt; this is an uncertainty to which voters should demand a resolution.

Yesterday both main party leaders played to their strengths. Mr Blair visited a school. Mr Major mounted his soapbox, delighting in the role of underdog that served him so well in 1992. The Prime Minister needs to capitalise on the personal affection in which the public still holds him. But his party has to decide if it has the confidence to stand behind him. Many Tory candidates seem certain to breach his line on a single currency, and even, in the West Midlands, on immigration.

The Prime Minister's leadership has too often been found wanting. A late spurt of radicalism in the past few days has not restored the Tories' momentum. Mr Blair has the changing winds behind him; the authority that has turned his party into an electable force is a tempting prospect to the country at large. Yet the Labour leader is not widely trusted; and Mr Major's common touch may yet take him closer to the hearts and heartland of Britain.

Mr Major's task is to challenge those voters. Many decided some years ago that they would not vote Tory this time. "Time for a change" has gradually permeated the country, compounded by this administration's incompetence, divisions and drift. But election decisions are momentous, and even those voters who normally put politics to one side have a duty to re-examine their conviction over the next six weeks. We, like them, intend to question our assumptions, to go back to first principles, to listen to our readers and to revisit the arguments — both for all-change and for none.

A GIRL'S BEST CHANCE

Labour should look again at its policy on assisted places

One hundred and twenty-five years ago, the idea that girls deserved a good education was a radical one. The Girls' Public Day School Trust was set up in 1872 soon after the Government's Schools' Enquiry Commission had claimed that "the notion that women have minds as cultivable, and as well worth cultivating, as men's minds is still regarded by the ordinary parent as an offensive, not to say revolutionary, paradox". Today, as the GPDSST celebrates its 125th anniversary, its provision of good education to academically able girls is threatened by a different kind of prejudice.

Of the 19,500 girls at the 26 schools run by the trust, some 3,000 are there by virtue of assisted places — where some or all of the fees are paid by the State. Should Labour win the election, no new assisted places will be allowed. The schools will have to restrict themselves to admitting only children of parents who can afford to pay the fees, thus denying opportunities to the less well-off and reducing their institutions to enclaves of the middle and upper class.

This would be a sad shame. The GPDSST is an admirable body, which has seen more than 250,000 girls through its schools over the past century or so. During that time, the trust advocated the policies for women of which any left-of-centre politician should be proud. Back in 1876, Gateshead High School was advanced enough to open a science laboratory, and Croydon High taught chemistry when this subject was barely known even in boys' schools. The forward-looking headmistress of Blackheath shocked her contemporaries by allowing her girls to

wear short skirts for gymnastics and PE. And Brighton High had a football club for the girls as early as 1894.

Since 1900, successive governments have paid for poorer girls to attend GPDSST schools, usually on academic merit. The schools were part of the direct grant sector — set up by one Labour Government and subsequently abolished by another. Today these schools are the chief participants in the Assisted Places Scheme. More than 90 per cent of their pupils go straight on to higher education.

Now that girls' grammar schools are so reduced in number, there are far too few opportunities for talented girls to gain a rigorous academic education with their own sex. Coeducation is fine at primary school, but as girls reach adolescence, they often suffer from pressures that boys can avoid. Boys tend to elbow them aside in class, to undermine their confidence and to distract them from their work. Even mixed schools are starting to experiment with single-sex classes, thus acknowledging what girls-only schools have long known: that teenage girls thrive best on their own.

Tonight at the Albert Hall, where the first public meeting to raise money for the trust was held, GPDSST pupils will put on a celebration to raise £50,000 to help to subsidise bright girls from families who cannot afford the fees. But they will never be able to raise enough to replace government help. If new Labour is interested in opportunity, it should be trying to build bridges between the state and the private sector, not blowing them up.

LABEL DETAILS

Origins matter for claret, carrots and roast beef

Detailed information on the origin and ingredients of food is taken today as a fundamental consumer right. The labels on the packaging of almost all food products not only give the chemical breakdown of the contents but also their nutritional values. In most supermarkets, raw foodstuffs such as fruit and vegetables are routinely labelled with their country of origin — beans from Kenya, oranges from Israel, apples from France. The proposal, therefore, by the European Commission that meat should also carry information on its origin is fully in keeping with tightening practices in consumer protection.

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, has set his face against any such plan. He sees it as a way of enshrining in law the boycott of British beef. No one seeing a label or flag denoting the British origin of meat for sale will buy it, even when it is allowed back into continental markets, he believes. And competitors would take advantage of the fear of BSE to move into other meat markets where guilt by association is already affecting sales.

The effect of the commission proposal may indeed be what Mr Hogg fears, and other meat producers, especially Germany, have taken advantage of the ban on British beef. This in no way undermines the overriding need to give European Union consumers more information about what they eat. Mr Hogg has only himself to blame if conti-

mental consumers are unconvinced by his protestations that British beef is now absolutely safe: the Government's record hardly gives grounds for confidence. The Germans may be fastidious about their diet: that is their right. To insist that meat should be sold anonymously in order to protect the market looks self-serving and dishonest.

Instead, Mr Hogg should argue that not only the country of origin but also the region and even the herd should be specified. There are areas in the United Kingdom, especially Scotland and Northern Ireland, where the incidence of BSE has been very low; organic farms too have an unblemished record. If and when the ban of British beef exports is lifted — likely to be a step-by-step process — they should be the first to benefit.

Europe is already moving towards this principle. Directives now insist that named foods, such as Parma ham, come from the place of their origin. The most successful food producers see this not only as a way of countering fraud, but ensuring the quality and reputation of the best foodstuffs. France, with enormous agricultural exports, has introduced a system of *appellation contrôlée* for vegetables, cheeses and staple products. The best carrots are now as carefully graded and protected as the best clarets. Policing would be difficult and expensive. But one day the *rosbif* from a premier herd of Dumfries may be as sought after as a *grand cru* Château-Lafite.

Discontent within the ranks of Jewry

From Rabbi John D. Rayner

Sir, You are to be commended for your generosity to Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks (leading article, March 15; see also letters, February 27, March 5, 14) in saying that his reference to the late Rabbi Hugo Gryn and his section of Anglo-Jewry as "destroyers of the faith" in a leaked private letter, was a "mistake" attributable to "honourable motives" from which he will learn.

Let us hope that you are right and that, accordingly, he will shortly be retracting his calumny and acknowledging that the Progressive (Reform and Liberal) movements have a positive role to play within the happily variegated spectrum of Jewish religious life in this country. On that, self-evidently, depends what kind of a relationship, if any, these movements will be able to have with his office in future.

But you are completely wrong in suggesting that the unity of British Jewry depends on perpetuating the myth — for it has never been anything else — that the Chief Rabbi represents all sections of it, still more that it would be "divisive" for the Progressives to have their own religious leadership, which of course they have always had.

The various sections of Britain's pluralistic Jewish community will continue to work together in the pursuit of common aims, under the umbrella of such organisations as Jewish Care and the Board of Deputies of British Jews, as they have always done, with or without the help of the Chief Rabbi.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN D. RAYNER
(Honorary Life-President of the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues),
28 St John's Wood Road, NW8,
March 16.

Test ban treaty

From the Minister of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sir, Mr Dave Knight (letter, March 9) is understandably upset over the timing of the legislation to enable the United Kingdom to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. We are committed to ratifying as early as possible, and certainly well within the two-year period (ending September 1998) that has to elapse before the treaty can enter into force.

But ratification is not an empty formality. A detailed Bill is needed to provide for, among other things, on-site inspections in any part of the United Kingdom. Preparatory work is in hand, and we hope to introduce it in the next Parliament.

I was also surprised to see Mr Knight's claim that the United Kingdom's record on nuclear disarmament is one of grudging obstruction. In fact we took an extremely active role in the promulgation of the test ban treaty to ensure it had the maximum effect on minimising proliferation.

In recent years we have made a number of reductions to our nuclear forces on a national basis. By the end of 1998 our deterrent will be 21 per cent smaller in terms of warheads and 59 per cent smaller in terms of explosive power than in the mid-1970s. This is not incompatible with our continued commitment to nuclear deterrence and allows us to retain the minimum effective deterrent.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID DAVIS,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
King Charles Street, SW1,
March 11.

From Mr Angus D. Dowley

Sir, As long as nuclear weapons remain the ultimate form of deterrence against attack on the UK they must be shown to be reliable. The Government must, in my view, retain the ability to resume nuclear tests in future to maintain the credibility of the stockpile: this would also demonstrate the political will to use nuclear weapons, a vital element of an effective deterrent.

The disarmament movement maintains that the nuclear stockpile can be maintained and upgraded by computer modelling and testing, but this is yet to be proved. Previous test data are certainly necessary to design and test nuclear warheads without actually detonating them have yet to be written. We cannot rely on supercomputers to keep nuclear weapons safe.

Yours faithfully,
ANGUS D. DOWLEY,
University of Hull,
Department of Politics,
Hull HU1 7RX,
March 8.

A matter of honour

From Mr P. J. Watts

Sir, Would it be too cynical to suggest that had the nursery nurse, Miss Lisa Potts, made a substantial donation to the Tory party's funds she might have been awarded the formal recognition which Mr Justice Sedley rightly implies her brave action in protecting her pupils deserves (report, March 8)?

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK WATTS,
2 Blenheim Way,
Grantham, Lincolnshire,
March 8.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Popular dissent on benefits of EU

From Sir Christopher Beauchamp

Sir, I would dispute each of the "benefits" of our membership of the EU that are set out by Mr Giles Radice, MP (letter, March 10).

Environmental standards have not been improved by the common agricultural policy. For example, the destruction of hedgerows, wild life and our natural habitat resulting from EU farming policies has been a disaster.

It is NATO, not the EU that has "helped" to secure the longest unbroken period of peace in Europe for 300 years.

The EU has not made British business more successful. We have had a trade deficit with Europe during the whole period of UK membership of £87 billion. During the same period the UK had a trading surplus with the rest of the world of over £90 billion.

British people are not better off in the EU. The CAP increases every family's food bills by over £20 per week. EU food prices were on average 70 per cent higher than on the world market during the 1980s. Our £3.5 billion net annual budget contributions puts £211 extra on everybody's taxes every year. High interest rates forced by our ERM membership from 1990-92 exacerbated unemployment, industrial bankruptcies, repossessions and economic distress.

As to Britain's influence in the world, our say in matters counts for nothing if it is overruled by majority voting in the EU.

What is so outrageous is that the EU is using our money (£150,000 for the campaign to which Mr Radice refers but millions have been earmarked for campaigns throughout the EU including the UK) by way of grants to fund such propaganda: something that would be illegal for any political party in this country to do.

Yours sincerely,
C. R. P. BEAUCHAMP,
The Coach House,
4 Balfour Mews, Sidmouth, Devon,
March 10.

U-boat secrets

From Mr Ralph Erskine

Sir, Your excellent obituary of Captain A. J. Baker-Cresswell (March 6) also letters (March 15) mentioned in passing the recovery of "new rotors" from the Enigma machine from the U-boat U559 in November 1942. In fact the bravery of Lieutenant Anthony Fasson, Able Seaman Colin Grazier and 16-year-old Tommy Brown, from HMS Petard, in recovering vital code material from the U559 helped to turn the course of the war.

They did not capture any Enigma rotors from U559 — none were needed, since the Bletchley Park code-breakers had already worked out their wiring. Instead, they recovered two important codebooks used by the U-boats. From December 1942 until

From Mr Richard Rawsthorn

Sir, The case advanced by the pro-Europeans in their "counter-attack" on the Eurosceptics (letter, March 15) is entirely economic. Their argument, put baldly, seems to me to be that if we do not participate wholeheartedly in the development of the EU, the British people will be poorer and some may lose their jobs. This is strongly contested by the sceptics.

However, the roots of Euroscepticism have nothing to do with economics: the nub of the matter is that the EU has failed utterly to win over the hearts and minds of the British people, many of whom loathe and despise the EU's institutions.

Pro-Europeans should understand that for a British government to be supplanted by or subordinated to such institutions contains the makings of a catastrophe on a scale which will make economic arguments seem trivial.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD RAWSTHORN,
Barcroft, Cliviger,
Near Burnley, Lancashire,
March 13.

From Major-General M. S. Hancock

Sir, The Conservatives are no longer aiming to be "at the heart of Europe", nor honouring their pledge to work towards "an ever closer Europe". Labour appear to be equally in doubt about Britain's future in Europe. Indeed their policies are no longer based on principles but, in many ways, seem to have become similar to those of the Conservatives in the hope of more votes. Liberal Democrats have consistently supported playing our full part in Europe.

Our future in Europe is clearly the most important single issue for the forthcoming election and we have the choice. Let us vote Lib-Dem not Lab-Con.

Yours faithfully,
M. S. HANCOCK,
Brakey Hill,
Godstone, Surrey,
March 11.

about June 1943, these were the only means by which Bletchley could find "cribs" (probable wording of signals), with which to break the Shark cipher used by the Atlantic U-boats.

Sadly, Anthony Fasson and Colin Grazier, who received posthumous George Crosses, were drowned when U559 went down suddenly. Tommy Brown survived and became the youngest holder of the George Medal. Few acts of courage by three individuals can ever have had so far-reaching consequences.

Breaking Shark played a major part in helping to win the Battle of the Atlantic — and probably shortened the war.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH ERSKINE,
23A Park Street (Apt 5), Bath,
March 8.

Channel 5 retuning

From Mr Paul Smea

Sir, Your leading article (March 11) suggests that the Independent Television Commission appears "in a hurry to address the grievances" of viewers over the performance of Channel 5 returners (reports, March 11 and 13; letter, March 7).

The ITC has to be satisfied that 90 per cent of those whose TV equipment would suffer from interference from Channel 5 broadcasts have had that equipment returned before these programme services start in any given transmission area.

Of course, one of the main sources of information about the progress of this huge exercise is the Channel 5 statistical base. This has been evaluated by independent consultants appointed by the ITC who have confirmed that it is a reliable indication of Channel 5's performance. We also receive information about progress from other sources. All this information

gives a broadly consistent message.

Channel 5 has had to fulfil its licence requirements on the overall progress of retuning. It is this performance which has enabled the commission to agree to the start of transmissions on March 30. After the start of broadcasting, Channel 5, as a requirement of its licence, must respond to any viewers who still have interference problems within tight timescales — and free of charge — for a further three months.

There have been an inevitable number of difficult cases. The prime responsibility for their resolution lies with Channel 5. It has set up, with our support, ombudsmen arrangements. We have been able to help a number of individuals who have contacted us and we will continue to do so.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL SMEA
(Director of Public Affairs),
Independent Television Commission,
33 Foley Street, W1.

Bugging approval

From Mr Rowland Cottingham

Sir, The Home Secretary (letter, March 11) continues to insist that there will be occasions on which a commissioner (a past or serving judge) cannot be located in time to approve a surveillance operation.

In order that it can be ensured that such a situation should not arise, surely we, the medical profession can offer our legal colleagues a solution that we have used for many years to good effect. Doctors operate an on-call system and I recommend this for the commissioners. A telephone call in which the requirement is set out may be made at any hour and be approved immediately.

This will satisfy the requirement of celerity and the law will be seen to have been consulted. The number of occasions on which such a rapid response will be required must be small, and will not be an excessive burden on any one commissioner.

Yours faithfully,
R. COTTINGHAM
(Consultant in accident surgery and emergency medicine),
Eastbourne District General Hospital,
Accident and Emergency Unit,
Eastbourne, East Sussex,
March 12.

Hogg hunting

From Mr John A. Sibbald

Sir, Matthew Parris reports today the increasing enthusiasm with which Members of Parliament are taking up Hogg hunting (Political sketch, March 13).

Your readers, or rather hunt followers, may like to know that, according to Robert Baden-Powell's authoritative *Pigsticking or hog hunting* (Harrison & Sons, 1899), the sport is, in its primitive form, the most general and ancient sport in existence.

He describes the quarry thus: in the matter of brains he [the hog] goes in for quality and not quantity, for there can be no doubt that that little brain is excessively full of craft... even in the worst dilemma a pig never loses his head.

And in similar vein: The fact of finding himself hard pressed appears to annoy a boar very considerably, and he will then often charge any object he sees, whether it may be concerned in his pursuit or not.

As if with recent events in mind, Baden-Powell also observes: A pig hard pressed will often make for a herd of cattle and try to keep in its midst during its blunderings and stupid flight.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN A. SIBBALD,
50 Blacket Place, Edinburgh 9,
March 13.

Lead us not into supermarkets

From Mr Ian F. Burke

Sir, The Reverend John Papworth (report, March 5) describes supermarkets and superstores as "places of evil and temptation" that have forced small shops out of business and damaged communities. It was the consumers who decided that the high street no longer met their needs, not the supermarkets.

The high streets were not and are not, in the great majority of cases, capable of handling the social and demographic changes that took place after the last world war. Small traditional grocery stores could not handle the increased population and the traffic volumes created.

Supermarkets operate on margins that are much lower than those in traditional stores. They provide greater freedom of choice, fresher and healthier products, faster and more convenient service in a cleaner more hygienic environment.

Temptation, however, arises when items are placed on stalls in the street, not inside stores with entry barriers and security procedures. Stealing in a supermarket requires premeditated action.

The high streets failed to adapt to the changes in their environment despite plenty of warning and paid the penalty.

Mr Papworth may just have exceeded his use-by date.

Yours etc,
IAN F. BURKE
(Senior lecturer),
School of Business and Management,
University of Greenwich,
Woolwich Campus, Riverside House,
Beresford Street, Woolwich, SE18,
March 17.

From Monsignor J. Joyce

Sir, The Reverend John Papworth's advocacy of shoplifting has caused adverse comments from Anglican authorities, but his position could be seen as a development of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which says:

The seventh commandment forbids theft, that is, usurping another's property against the reasonable will of the owner. There is no theft if consent can be presumed or if refusal is contrary to reason and the universal destination of goods. This is the case in obvious and urgent necessity when the only way to provide for immediate, essential needs (food, shelter, clothing...) is to put one's hand on the property of others (para 2408).

This is based on the premise that the right to private property "does not do away with the original gift of the earth to the whole of mankind. The universal destination of goods remains primordial" (para 2403).

Perhaps Mr Papworth is more faithful to Christian teaching than those who attacked him.

Yours faithfully,
J. JOYCE,
The Parish of St James and St William of York,
St James, Forbury Road,
Reading, Berkshire,
March 15.

From Field Marshal Sir John Stanier

Sir, Let's hope that when next the Reverend John Papworth wheels his trolley into Tesco's, the management will run him in for shoplifting, whether he has or not. After all, there's nothing wrong with bearing false witness: it's only another of the Ten Commandments.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STANIER,
Cavalry and Guards Club,
127 Piccadilly, W1,
March 15.

From Mr M. G. de St V. Atkins

Sir, It really is rich of Mr Andrew Coker, a spokesman for Tesco, to say: "The eighth commandment is 'Thou shalt not steal'. I find it very surprising that a vicar should be encouraging people to commit sin."

The fourth commandment requires that the sabbath be kept holy. Tesco deliberately breached that law and also, in the correct expectation that spineless local authorities would do nothing, the law of the land as it then was. A spokesman for the company is not the obvious person to cast the first stone.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.
M. G. de St V. ATKINS,
Whittington,
via Camforth, Lancashire,
March 15.

Stops and starts

From Mr Raymond Davern

Sir, Despite the fact that Einstein's lasting contribution to human knowledge pertained to what Aristotle called speculative rather than practical reasoning, I should have thought it likely that even he was concerned to discover not so much whether Crewe went past the train leaving Euston (letter, March 13) as whether, if it did so, it did so slowly enough for him to alight thereat.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND DAVERN,
King's College London,
School of Law,
Strand, WC2,
March 14.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

RALPH SELBY

Royal Artillery and spent a period working in Intelligence in Cairo, where he encountered Hilton again, as well as Enoch Powell, and also became involved with local left-wing activists.

From Egypt his war service took him to Italy, Bulgaria and what was then Yugoslavia, where he was assistant to the British military attaché in Belgrade. His book *Byzantium and Bulgaria*, published in 1975, drew on the interests and experiences of these years.

He returned briefly to Oxford after the war as a Harmsworth Senior Scholar at Merton College, before being appointed in 1947 to a Readership at University College, London. His association with London University was to last until he retired in 1981 as Emeritus Professor of Classical and Ancient History at Birkbeck College, having held the chair since 1965.

Browning was a communist for much of his life. His political interests and allegiances led him to the Historians' Group of the Communist Party and drew him into friendship with like-minded historians such as Eric Hobsbawm and Christopher Hill. He became a member of the board of *Past and Present* in 1965, and was for many years a tireless worker on the side of the far left.

This sustained and evenly held commitment rarely showed itself in his historical writings, however, even when he wrote on the later Roman Empire, a topic which readily lent itself in other hands to Marxist interpretation. Nor, though he was never reluctant to talk about his beliefs and experiences, was this a side of him which revealed itself much in his academic dealings.

The range of Browning's scholarly publications was wide, encompassing everything from an article on the date of Petronius (with C.N. Constantinides) to a comprehensive catalogue of all the dated Greek manuscripts of Cyprus to the year AD 1570. He was the author of several successful books of history – among them studies of *Justinian and*



Greece revealed in his editing of another, very different work, the Thames & Hudson illustrated volume on *The Greek World* (1985), found expression not only in his scholarship but in his administrative activities and involvements.

During the years when Greece was under the rule of "the colonels", Browning gave strong support to opponents of the military regime. He also served as chairman of the British Committee for the Restitution of the Parthenon Marbles, was vice-presi-

To the end of his life Browning would go out of his way to advise and help younger scholars. He had pupils and proteges all over the world, especially in Australia, where a *Festschrift* with the title *Maistor*, edited by Ann Moffatt, was published in 1984 to mark his retirement and his 70th birthday. A second *Festschrift*, with the title *Philhellene*, has recently been published in Venice under the auspices of the Hellenic Institute of Byzantine Studies.

His retirement from Birkbeck caused hardly a pause in his activity as one of the leading international Byzantine scholars, for he then took up a regular visiting appointment at the Centre for Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington. His inspiring lectures and classes won him a devoted following. Latterly, he also served as a committed member of the board of the new University of

Robert Browning is survived by his second wife, Ruth Gresh, whom he married in 1972, and by one of the two daughters of his first marriage, to Galina Chichikova.

THE product of a diplomatic background (his father has been Ambassador in Lisbon 1937-40), Ralph Selby ended his own career as British Ambassador to Norway from 1972 to 1975. He had begun his diplomatic life during the Munich crisis, but war soon intervened and he did not resume it until 1945. Perhaps his most successful posting was to Indonesia during the difficult years of the Sukarno

At the outbreak of war he obtained his release from the PO and was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards. Landing in Normandy three weeks after D-Day, he saw action with his battalion for the next two months until, August 20, 1944, a mortar bomb exploded in his face, nearly killing him. For several days the war was over and he


served successively in The Hague; London, again, deputy head of Southern Department, dealing with Greece and Turkey; and Tokyo where he was Counsellor at

From Copenhagen he was sent to Indonesia. His dispatches to London from Jakarta succeeded in guiding the British Government away from its policy of funding aid to Indonesia at the worst time of the regime of the dictatorial President Sukarno. The Americans and Russians found to their cost, too late, that the funds that they had been pouring in to alleviate, as they thought, the starvation of the people were being annexed by Sukarno to buy himself private jet planes and build palaces for his wives. The subsequent confrontation with Britain over Malaysia and the eventual downfall of Sukarno

In retirement after 1975 he lived on Hayling Island, at Mengham House, inherited by his wife Julianna on the death of her mother in 1981; there he devoted himself to local education and research.

He is survived by his wife Julianna and by three daughters.

PROFESSOR BRYAN COLES



Coles's abilities were soon recognised, and in 1950 he moved to London and a lectureship in Metal Physics at Imperial College. There he subsequently became senior lecturer, Reader, and, from 1966 onwards, Professor of Solid State Physics.

In 1954 he went to the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh as a research fellow, and this visit initiated transatlantic links which, together with his inspiration and leadership, helped to create a strong department

SERC Neutron Beam Research Committee from 1985 to 1988. In 1991, when he retired from his chair, he was elected a **Fellow of the Royal Society**, a fitting climax to a distinguished career.

After his retirement Coles became Emeritus Professor and Senior Research Fellow at Imperial College, and resumed his research with renewed vigour. He looked well-set to follow the example of his other great mentor and friend, Nevill Martin, who maintained a creative research career until his death last year at the age of 90.

Coles travelled extensively, stimulating his many collaborators around the world with new ideas. He published a further 30 papers after his retirement and on his last day at Imperial College, just three days before his sudden death, he was planning new experiments.

He is survived by his wife Merivan whom he met when he was a Carnegie Fellow in Pittsburgh and married in 1955, and by two sons.

AUSTIN WRIGHT

Wright in his Yorkshire garden in 1991
with a work entitled *Plantation*

In 1950 he held his first public exhibition at the York City Art Gallery, and four years later, with the help of local gallery directors and dealers, he managed to give up his teaching post at York Art School to concentrate on his sculpture full-time: "It was then that I really got going here, working solidly on my own... I became locked and linked to this place — the barn inside, the freedom of the ground."

At this time Yorkshire, by now Wright's adopted county, held a particularly strong hand in the arts. Hans Hess and Helen Kapp, the postwar directors of York and Wakefield art galleries, co-ordinated a comprehensive series of contemporary art exhibitions during the 1950s which allowed artists such as Wright to exhibit regularly and without maximum exposure.

By 1955 Wright's future as a sculptor of international standing seemed assured. He exhibited 17 works at the *Modern Art in Yorkshire* exhibition, alongside such artists as Eduardo Paolozzi, Kenneth Armitage and Elisabeth Frink. The British Council took an interest, and invited him to be in a *Younger British Sculptors* exhibition that toured Sweden in 1956. Although artists such as Reg Butler, Lynn Chadwick and Geoffrey Clarke were exhibi-

ON THIS DAY
March 18, 1935

The introduction of a 30mph speed limit for vehicles travelling in built-up areas was an event of national significance but was by no means everywhere welcomed.

that motorists as a body are either thoughtless or reckless. The whole of British law is directed against the minority, and the community looks to those in authority to enforce the law in the interest of the majority. The limit is a liberal one for built-up areas. In most of those areas it is impossible to exceed 30 miles an hour and there need be no

Mr. Hore, following apprehension in the mind of any ordinary motorists who drives with ordinary care. Every motorist will know whether he is in a built-up area by observing if there is a system of street lighting. But in addition signs are

PERSONAL COLUMN

[illegible]

[illegible]

Emirates deal secures 1,000 Rolls-Royce jobs

FROM HARVEY ELLIOTT
IN DUBAI

ROLLS-ROYCE yesterday signed a £350 million deal that secures at least 1,000 jobs and opens up big new markets for the Trent jet engines.

Sir Ralph Robins, Rolls-Royce chairman, signed the contract with Emirates Airline for engines to power up to 23 of its new Airbus A330 twin jets. The agreement means that Emirates will become the first major interna-

tional airline operating both Airbus and Boeing jets powered only by Rolls-Royce engines. The decision by Emirates will be closely watched by other airlines, especially after British Airways suffered problems with the General Electric GE90 engines used to power its long-range fleet of Boeing 777s. Three of the aircraft in BA's fleet have been withdrawn from long haul transatlantic service.

Rolls-Royce broke into the highly competitive but lucrative Middle East market for the "big twins" in 1995 when Emirates placed orders for

Trent 800 series engines for its Boeing 777 fleet. The airline has chosen Rolls-Royce Trent 700s for its A330s, which will form the backbone of its short and medium haul services throughout Asia and the former Soviet Union.

Emirates now has a fleet of ten Airbus A310-300s, six Airbus A300-600s and three Boeing 777s. Another four Boeing 777s will join the fleet from next month and the new Airbus A330-200s will be delivered from 1999 to replace the existing Airbus fleet. The two contracts mean that Rolls-Royce, which will produce the

engines at factories in Derby, Sunderland and Glasgow, will be the sole engine supplier to Emirates within the next five years.

Rolls-Royce is now attempting to expand into the developing market for big twin-engined aircraft in America and the Emirates deal will have given an important fillip during detailed negotiations.

British Aerospace has a 20 per cent share in the Airbus consortium, allowing Britain a powerful and economically important voice in the fast expanding region.

News Corp makes US acquisition

The News Corporation is acquiring Heritage Media Corporation, a US marketing services company, for \$754 million. Heritage, based in Dallas, provides in-store marketing products and services for supermarkets and drug stores.

News Corp. parent company of *The Times*, said it intended to sell the six television stations and 24 radio stations owned by Heritage.

Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of News Corp., said Heritage would complement FSI, a subsidiary that publishes free-standing promotional inserts in the United States. It produces more than 60 million weekly inserts, which are distributed in more than 600 Sunday newspapers throughout the country.

Astec record

Astec BSR, the electronic components distributor, outsourced stiff market conditions last year to make record pre-tax profits of £33.9 million (£28.1 million). The company said it avoided a direct hit from the slowdown in the personal computer market by investing £33 million in higher-margin new products. While turnover rose 5.1 per cent, earnings were up 17 per cent to 8.5p a share. The dividend is 1.8p (1.5p) with a final 1.7p, due on June 10.

Emess ahead

Emess said strong growth in the consumer lighting division offset difficult conditions in 1996. It reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £9.2 million (£8.3 million) on turnover of £178 million (£165 million). Earnings rose to 1.3p a share (0.9p). The company, which did not pay an interim dividend, is paying a 0.4p final dividend. The 1995 total was 0.2p.

Sterling post

Sterling Publishing has completed its new management team with the appointment of Derek Watson as its new finance director. Mr Watson was involved in the privatisation of London Buses and BR Projects.

ScotAm date

Scottish Amicable, the mutual insurer up for auction, is to reveal its recommended buyer at the end of the month. By last Friday's deadline it had received final offers from Abbey National, AMP Society and Prudential.



Strong sales of taxis helped Manganese Bronze Holdings to increase first-half pre-tax profits by 62 per cent to £4.1 million. Jamie Borwick, chief executive, left, with Hugh Lang, chairman, and Bill Gillespie, the finance director, said that the metal powders business also performed well. The interim dividend rises to 3.5p (2.5p)

Lang opens more areas for gas competition

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

HOUSEHOLDS in Scotland and northeast England will be able to shop around for their gas supply later this year after the Government yesterday opened up the areas for competition.

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said the move would make available savings of about 20 per cent on British Gas's standard tariffs, representing an average cut in gas bills of £65 a year.

Already two million homes in Britain are able to choose their gas supplier and, according to a timetable drawn up by the Office of Gas Supply, the deregulated market should be in

place nationally by next year. Competition was introduced in the South West of England last year and extended to Somerset, Avon, Kent and Sussex this year.

Yesterday Labour said that competition should not be rushed and that the mistakes of the three trial areas must be heeded. In the South West there were complaints about aggressive selling by some independent gas suppliers and incorrect final bills from British Gas. John Battle, Shadow Energy Minister, said: "Why have they announced it with so little warning either to the industry or, this close to a general election, the opposition parties?"

There is speculation that a Labour government would at least delay the introduction of competition in the supply of energy, including gas and electricity.

Competition in domestic gas supply in Scotland and the North East for two million homes could start in October, with further phases planned for the rest of the country going into next year.

Sue Slipman, director of the Gas Consumers Council, said: "We still have a long way to go before we are ready for the national roll-out of domestic gas competition. In the current phase 2 in Kent and Sussex we are experiencing a number of site identification and data

problems when consumers switch supplier. These need to be ironed out before competition is fully opened up."

British Gas has asked the industry regulator for permission to bring its prices down in the South West after losing a 20 per cent share of the market to competitors.

The consultation period ends on Thursday with a decision possible just after Easter. Crucial to the regulator's decision will be whether she thinks a competitive market has been established.

Of the 500,000 homes in the region, 96,460 have left British Gas. The take-up for all two million households able to change is 240,000.

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Airtours to buy cruise line in joint deal

BY ADAM JONES

AIRTOURS, the holiday company, confirmed yesterday that it is to buy Costa Crociere, Europe's leading cruise line, in a joint venture deal worth £168 million.

The deal is in partnership with Carnival Cruises, the US cruise operator that has a 29 per cent Airtours stake.

The buyers, who will each take 50 per cent of the company, have agreed the transfer of 58.9 per cent of the issued ordinary share capital so far. The deal is expected to be completed in June, enhancing Airtours earnings in the short term.

When Airtours declared its interest at the end of last year, Costa Crociere was valued at £181 million. The fall in price reflects the strength of the pound against the lire in 1997.

Costa Crociere, based in Genoa, started as an exporter of olive oil to the US. It is listed on the Milan stock exchange and runs eight ships in the Mediterranean during the summer and the Caribbean during the winter. Nicola Costa will continue as chairman of Costa.

Tim Byrne, deputy finance director, said Costa has debts of £350 million. It had net assets of £167 million in 1995, the last audited financial year, when it made a pre-tax profit of £16.8 million. He said Airtours hoped to increase occupancy rates on Costa ships, which currently lag those of Carnival by about a third.

Costa draws 85 per cent of its customers from France, Italy, Germany and the US; the cruises are more upmarket than those already offered by Airtours. Mr Byrne said Costa would be marketed in the UK, but added: "We are not going to change the profile of the business."

Regulatory approval from the European Commission is pending. Mr Byrne said it was unlikely that there would be a problem.

Hammerson asset growth held back

BY CARL MORTISHED

WEAK real estate markets in France and Canada kept the lid on asset growth at Hammerson, the property group, which saw the value of its investments rise less than 2 per cent last year.

Pre-tax profits, excluding the sale of investments, fell 6 per cent to £60.6 million. Hammerson's net asset value rose 3.2 per cent to 38p per share. The UK retail portfolio grew

5 per cent in value, with Brent Cross in London rising 14.5 per cent.

In France, Hammerson's two shopping centres achieved growth of 3.5 per cent but underlying values fell. In Canada, weak consumer demand hurt Hammerson's Ontario shopping centres.

The dividend is 11.2p (10.6p) after adjusted earnings of 15.6p (15.3p).

Society to return £45m to members

DEREK ROBERTS, chairman of Yorkshire Building Society, yesterday announced pre-tax profits had nearly halved to £43.2 million last year as the mutual lender returned £45 million to its 650,000 members in the form of improved interest rates (Gavin Lumsden writes).

It was the first full financial year since the society restored its commitment to mutuality. Mr Roberts said on average £50,000 interest-only mortgage borrowers had paid £200 less with Yorkshire compared with other building societies. Savers with a similar balance in a 90-day account had been £300 better off, he said. As a result Yorkshire attracted £414 million in savings, bringing balances to a record £4.12 billion, and saw net lending jump 47 per cent to £624 million.

Yorkshire's net interest margin, the difference between its savings and mortgage rate, fell from 1.95 per cent to 1.25 per cent, 64 per cent lower than the average of the five societies converting to banks.

Yorkshire Group seeks alliances

BY MARTIN BARROW

YORKSHIRE GROUP, the struggling chemicals company, is in talks with a number of potential partners with a view to forming alliances that would embrace its core operations. The company also announced it will sell its Australian operations.

The strategic review, announced as the company reported a sharp fall in 1996 pre-tax profits to £2.8 million from

£10.57 million, forms part of a major overhaul of the business being implemented by Stuart Wallis. Appointed chairman in October to revive the group, Mr Wallis has identified serious flaws in a number of key areas.

He said that Yorkshire's product range and geographic spread was too diverse and lacked strategic direction. The core UK operations required greater marketing and technical input, while the information systems need a major overhaul. Discussions with a number of potential partners are under way, he added.

Results for 1996 included a £10.3 million charge against restructuring. Operating profits from continuing operations improved to £13.9 million from £11.1 million on turnover that rose to £132.2 million from £124.2 million. Losses were 0.2p a share (0.4p earnings).

The total dividend is lifted 5.8 per cent to 9.1p a share, with a 6.2p final.



Wallis: identified flaws

Receivers cut Scottish Pride jobs as milk business is sold

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

NEARLY 190 jobs have been cut at Scottish Pride by its receivers, who have sold its fresh milk business to Robert Wiseman Dairies, its main rival, for £4.8 million.

Wiseman is buying seven depots and the Fresh 'n' Low low-fat milk brand and it will preserve 120 jobs. It will also have a 75 per cent share of the Scottish fresh milk market.

However, 189 jobs will be lost with the closure of Scottish Pride's depot in Glasgow. The cuts are in addition to another 150 redundancies when Scot-

tish Pride was put into receivership with £40 million of debts last month.

The money raised from this sale will all go to creditors rather than to Scottish Pride shareholders, who must wait to see how much the receivers can raise from the sale of the rest of the business.

A first attempt by Wiseman to buy the whole Scottish Pride business was frustrated by a refusal by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The MMC conditionally cleared the purchase of the fresh milk

division, but while Wiseman argued about what it considered overly onerous conditions, Scottish Pride lost two big contracts and KPMG was called in as receiver. The company's shares were suspended at 42.5p.

KPMG expects to name a buyer for Scottish Pride's long-life milk and cheese businesses next month. Wiseman plans to raise £12.2 million through a placing and open offer to fund the acquisition and to make further investments.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bunzl overcomes paper price falls

BUNZL, the paper and plastics group, lifted pre-tax profits 7 per cent to £113.5 million last year, in spite of a sharp fall in prices. Earnings rose 6 per cent to 16.4p a share. The final dividend, payable on July 1, is 4.1p, making a total of 6.3p and an increase of 9 per cent on the previous year. The company said that sales of continuing operations rose 5 per cent to £1.58 billion, lifting operating profits 11 per cent to £115.6 million.

Bunzl said that it increased sales, profits and margins in all continuing operations except fine paper. Performance in that division proved healthy in the UK but overall saw a 15 per cent profits fall. The company gave warning that the strength of sterling was likely to have an adverse impact on results for the first half of this year. But overall Bunzl predicted that the company would benefit from organic growth and from acquisitions. At the beginning of last year, Bunzl set aside £150 million for acquisitions. So far, £80 million has been spent.

Sorrell's £3.1m shares

MARTIN SORRELL, chief executive of WPP, picked up free shares worth £3.15 million yesterday, as a slight fall in the advertising group's share price failed to jeopardise the second down-payment on his £28 million incentive scheme. Market conditions yesterday knocked WPP's shares down 3p to 269½p. If they dip below 265p, Mr Sorrell will have to wait for at least another three months for the third of his four share tranches, which would bring the running total of his paper fortune to £9.3 million. He is currently on course to receive the payment on May 22.

Alexon revival goes on

ALEXON, the women's fashion retailer, unveiled a leap in pre-tax profits, but still decided not to pay a dividend. After three years in the red, it returned to profit in 1995 after a bank refinancing. It confirmed its recovery yesterday when it revealed that in the year to January 25 it made a pre-tax profit of £10.1 million from £3 million a year earlier. Like-for-like sales grew 12.1 per cent last year and are ahead for all five of the group's brands in the first six weeks of this year.

Rexam in £175m deal

REXAM, the packaging group, was yesterday celebrating a £175 million contract with Allegrance Healthcare that it claimed as the biggest in healthcare packaging. The deal, over seven years, extends Rexam's long-term partnership with Allegrance, based in Illinois. Rexam, which works for a range of industries, is the global leader in healthcare packaging with annual sales worth £180 million in medical and pharmaceutical products.

APS profits higher

AMERICAN PORT SERVICES, whose directors include Luke Johnson, the City dealmaker, reported pro forma pre-tax profits sharply higher at £8.6 million on sales that almost quadrupled to £35.6 million. The company was enlarged last year through the £21 million acquisition of Hobelmann, a US port operator. It has also bought Johnson Controls Aviation Services. A final dividend of 1.36p makes the total 2.0p a share (2.5p).

Dmatek cuts losses

LOSSES at Dmatek, the Israeli company whose shares trade on the Alternative Investment Market, retreated last year after the Swedish prison service bought its electronic tagging system. The company reported a post-tax loss of £1.9 million on sales of £5.6 million. The 1995 deficit was \$3.5 million. The Swedish deal was worth \$2.7 million, reducing second-half losses to \$150,000. The company hopes its quality-control technology for the printing industry will grow significantly in 1997.

SIB 'cancellation' review

THE Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the City watchdog, is reviewing the way investors are informed of their rights to cancel investments. The SIB claims that the current method can cause some investors to cancel without realising what they are doing. It estimates that changing the cancellation rules will save the industry around £500,000 a year. The new rules will affect unit trusts, Peps, life insurance products and open-ended investment companies.

Burger sales recover

BEEFBURGER sales have recovered to pre-BSE levels, said Gownings, the Burger King franchisee. The company said restaurant sales have started the current year in line with the early weeks of 1996, before consumers took fright over possible adverse health effects of eating beef. Gownings, which also has two Ford motor dealerships, reported 1996 pre-tax profits of £178,000 (£81,000). Earnings were 4.4p a share (6.6p). The dividend rises to 3p from 2.75p with a 2p final.

Monument at the double

MONUMENT OIL AND GAS more than doubled its production in the year to December, but profits were held back by commissioning problems at Liverpool Bay. The exploration company produced an average of 14,500 barrels per day compared with 6,900 in 1995 and operating profit rose from £7.1 million to £18 million. However, pre-tax profits increased by only 4 per cent to £12.4 million as a result of a rise in the interest bill from £1.5 million to £9.2 million.

New titles lift MediaKey

MEDIAKEY, the owner of Video Arts, the training company founded by John Cleese, reported a £2.3 million pre-tax profit for the 15 months to the end of 1996, on sales of £16.6 million. The company, which acquired Video Arts and Marshall Editions when it floated on the stock market in January last year, said no meaningful comparison could be made with 1995. MediaKey said new video titles had boosted sales. A final dividend of 0.75p on May 30 makes a 1.125p total.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.11	1.95
Austria Sch	20.01	19.51
Belgium F	58.73	54.43
Canada C	2.288	2.128
Cyprus Cyp	0.842	0.787
Denmark Kr	10.90	10.10
France F	6.53	6.28
Germany Dm	2.44	2.361
Greece Dr	484	418
Hong Kong S	13.03	12.03
Iceland	120	100
Ireland P	1.08	1.00
Israel S	5.87	5.02
Italy Lira	2829	2654
Japan Yen	211.90	195.90
Malta	0.652	0.597
Netherlands Gld	3.181	2.961
New Zealand S	2.44	2.22
Norway Kr	11.46	10.66
Portugal Esc	262.90	264.00
S. Africa Rd	7.49	6.89
Spain Ptas	240.90	223.90
Sweden Kr	13.01	12.21
Switzerland F	2.46	2.28
Turkey Lira	206000	196000
USA \$	1.698	1.598

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

BAYER AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

The Annual General Meeting of Bayer Aktiengesellschaft will be held on 30th April, 1997 in Cologne. Payment of a Dividend of 24% for the year 1996 will be proposed.

Copies of the Company's Annual Report for 1996 in English will be available from SBC Warrington.

Under Section 125 of the German Companies Act, the Board of Management is only obliged to provide information on proposals and resolutions that may be made by shareholders if the parties concerned prove their standing as shareholders in good time.

BAYER AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT
March, 1997

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Afford
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FREEPHONE 0500 66
Lifetime
HealthCare

□ The Forsyth, Nadir saga □ Giving Pearson time to change □ Lorrho's latest little upset

What's in an honorific?

IT IS a journalistic tradition that the honorific Mr, Ms or whatever is omitted on three occasions. Two are for sportsmen and pop stars, to avoid inherent ridiculousness — "Mr Jagger's rasping left-foot volley". The other is for those accused or convicted of criminal offences.

As if Nadir has been Nadir ever since his aircraft lifted off for northern Cyprus almost four years ago. This reflects both the charges laid against him by the Serious Fraud Office of fraud and theft and his clear admission of guilt, as it seemed, by fleeing to one of the few places on earth from which he could not be extradited. Now his lawyers hope that one day he will become Mr Nadir again.

This would be a reversal of fortunes to outdo even yesterday's freeing of Elizabeth Forsyth, his former aide, in probably the most damaging defeat yet for the SFO. True, Mr Justice Tucker, the trial judge, came off worse. His misdirection of the jury on whether Mr Forsyth knew or should have known the money she handled for Nadir was stolen was regarded as unsafe.

We had all expected Ms Forsyth's five-year sentence to be reduced, after the Court of Ap-

peal ruled it out of all proportion to the offence. Plainly it was, especially by contrast with the community service order given to Roger Levitt after so many of his investors had lost their shirts. The suspicion was that they could not get to Nadir, so his stooge would have to do.

What no one had expected was for Ms Forsyth to be deemed innocent all along, with a sound grounding for a case for damages for wrongful imprisonment. This paves the way, given a few more successful rolls of the dice in court, for Nadir to return. He may not be back for Christmas 1997, but he should have enough time still to arrange a decent millennium bash.

The argument will be that it was Michael Alcock, the tax man recently convicted for corruption, who undermined the entire Polly Peck empire, and the raid he instigated in 1990 that caused the share price collapse. As Mr Alcock is clearly a tainted source, the proceedings against Nadir are equally tainted.

Furthermore, the Forsyth case failed on appeal; if she did not handle stolen cash, then perhaps

the cash was not stolen. Stranger conclusions have been reached in the courts. Unless Alcock appeals... but some things do not bear thinking about. So a case against Nadir could start off with a heavy handicap, a thought doubtless even now doing the rounds of the SFO.

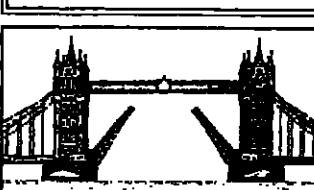
His flight to Cyprus can be painted as no admission of guilt, but a desperate attempt to avoid a trial he knew would be loaded against him, founded as it was on the actions of Alcock. Nadir left the country secretly in a light aircraft; he could arrive back on a scheduled flight.

That's Mr Nadir, to you.

Scardino's last stand

TEXANS have a reputation for stubbornness — the Alamo, and all that — and Marjorie Scardino was not going to be stampeded into promising much just 49 days into the job at Pearson. The City has a reputation for impatience. The stage was set for a splendid clash of cultures, as questions about

PENNINGTON



demerger, disposals or whatever were met with polite non-answers. So guess which way the Pearson share price went?

This is all rather unfair. The City has put up with Pearson's chronic underperformance for half a decade, according to the figures presented by Ms Scardino herself yesterday. Although institutions would plainly have backed a break-up bid, especially last summer when the share price was heading towards £6, none emerged.

If one argues, as many analysts are starting to, that a bidder has by now missed the boat, there is no urgency to sell the parts of Pearson that must clearly go. Instead there is the time to improve their perfor-

mance to a point when they raise more for shareholders.

On Ms Scardino's analysis, revenue increases that never exceeded 6 per cent and operating margins averaging less than 10 per cent during that period have been inadequate for the high-growth business Pearson aspires to be. The reason has been the existence most years of a Mindscape, for example, to drag the overall performance down.

Mindscape can now be sold, along with various minority television interests probably including the remaining BSkyB stake. Lazzards will go to the only possible purchaser, the management. The leisure attractions will stay for now, even if the only core businesses longer-term must be the TV side under Greg Dyke, assuming he stays, and the Financial Times.

And Ms Scardino has probably won herself enough time. Probably, because the arrival of that break-up bid this spring would provide the City with its most difficult choice since Forte/Granada. Support a relatively new management that has not had the time to live up to

its potential, or take the money? A pity we are unlikely to see the institutions skewed on that particular moral dilemma.

A matter of faith

ANOTHER sprawling business in dire need of dismemberment gave the market the benefit of a trading update yesterday. Actually, dismemberment without anaesthetic is probably too kind a fate for Lorrho, which never fails to surprise — and never pleasantly. The profits warning was a relatively minor matter, gently pointing Lorrho analysts towards one or two things they might have omitted to notice if they had failed to switch on their screens for a few months, such as the strength of the pound and lousy metal prices.

Lorrho being Lorrho, of course the share price reacted by falling nearly 10 per cent. There are still two main obstacles to the much-desired demerger, a sale of Princess Hotels and an untangling of the EC dispute over

Anglo American's 28 per cent in Lorrho. This is not strictly speaking any of Lorrho's business, being a final legacy of the unlamented Dieter Bock, who sold his 18 per cent stake to the South Africans, triggering EC concern over control of the world's supply of platinum. A ruling is due on May 8.

Before that could come a sale of the hotels to Prince al-Waleed bin Talal, the favourite to buy, whose ardour may or may not be cooling. All this achieved, demerger would be on target to begin in the autumn. Sucking in until then might seem to require a great deal of faith from Lorrho's shareholders. But faith, from the days of Tiny Rowland through the Bock interregnum and on to more sober times today, is something of which they have never been short.

Labouring the point

LABOUR is bad for your shares — official. Robert Fleming says the stock market has fallen under every Labour government, and another fall could coincide with the coming election. But this is no matter of cause and effect, Fleming admits — events in 1929 were beyond anyone's control. In fact the only clear link is high inflation, which is bad for equities, if not for company profits and house prices.

Openings in store as Argos recovers

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

TRADING at Argos has recovered after a poor autumn, the catalogue retailer revealed yesterday, and it is to forge ahead with a record number of store openings in the next year. These should create about 1,000 jobs.

Argos opened 38 stores last year, including seven superstores. This year the company will open 41 stores, including 12 superstores and four outlets in the Republic of Ireland. It will also close

ten of its smaller stores, giving a year-end total of 435.

Next year will see its first stores outside the British Isles, with five openings due in The Netherlands. Setting up the Dutch operation will cost £5 million this year.

Pre-tax profit in the year ended December 28 was £141.4 million, compared with £124.4 million a year ago.

The company was cautious about prospects for the sector for the rest of the decade, despite the improvement in consumer confidence last year. Sir Richard Lloyd, chairman, forecast low growth in the sector and increased competition.

Argos issued a profit warning in January after sales flattened in October and November. A pick-up in December led to 5 per cent like-for-like growth in the third quarter. That rate has now increased to about 7 per cent.

Mike Smith, the chief executive, said that congestion in the stores and a slim offering of the computer and software products that were Christmas best-sellers had hit Argos's sales.

The company's three key markets — toys, electricals and jewellery — had all been relatively weak over Christmas but Argos managed to increase its market share in each, he said.

The company is planning to hire more temporary staff ahead of Christmas this year and it may add more computers and computer games to its catalogue.

The company is holding back from rolling out its new First Stop discount stores, which it is testing in three locations. It is planning to see if sales growth responds to further investment on local advertising.

Trevor Green, currently managing director of Argos Distributors, is to take on responsibility for strategic and new business development.

Among new areas to be studied are the development of a telephone ordering service for the Argos catalogue, and further down the line, moving into other foreign markets. Earnings per share increased from 27.5p to 32.5p. The final dividend of 10.7p, from 9p, payable on May 22, gives a full-year dividend of 16p, up from 13p.

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Profit window for Bill Macdonald, managing director, left, and Ken Brown, finance director, of Eclipse Blinds

ADT concludes \$6.5bn merger deal with Tyco

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

ADT, the largest home security company in Britain and America, has agreed to a \$6.5 billion merger deal with Tyco International in an attempt to defeat a lower hostile bid by Western Resources.

The all-shares deal with Tyco values ADT shares at \$29 each, compared with the \$22.50 per share offer from Western, the Kansas energy company.

Michael Ashcroft, chairman of ADT, said: "This is a great deal for ADT shareholders." His shares in the company will be valued at nearly \$350 million.

Tyco, a maker of industrial and commercial products, is the largest fire protection company in America. The merged companies will co-sell and co-brand their services, achieving cost savings in the first year of \$50 million.

The merger would help both companies, which have both been growing at about 20 per cent a year, to grow faster, Mr Ashcroft said.

ADT shareholders will be given a 36 per cent stake in the new company, which will be called Tyco and will take over ADT's London stock market listing. ADT has revenues of

\$1.5 billion and Tyco has revenues of \$6.5 billion. It will combine ADT's 230 offices in 10 countries with Tyco's 300 fire safety offices in more than 50 countries.

Although Mr Ashcroft will be an independent director he does not plan to have a day-to-day role in the running of the company. "I want to develop some of my other ventures," he said.

Western Resources, which was instrumental in defeating an earlier merger agreed between ADT and Republic Industries, is considering whether to increase its offer.

Eclipse Blinds dividend rises

ECLIPSE BLINDS, the supplier of window blinds, increased 1996 pre-tax profits to £6.3 million from £4.5 million on turnover that rose to £41.6 million from £35.39 million. Earnings were 9.7p a share (7.62p). The total dividend is increased to 3p a share from 1p, with a 2p final.

Property market revival lifts Wilson Bowden

By ADAM JONES

THE recovery in the UK property market helped Wilson Bowden, the house-builder and developer, to record pre-tax profits of £41 million last year.

It also contributed to a sharp revival at Tay Homes, the developer and builder that increased first-half profits from £251,000 to £4.1 million on sales 20 per cent higher at £49.9 million.

David Wilson, the Wilson Bowden chairman and chief executive, said 1997 is seeing higher pricing of new houses now that the increased trade in the second-hand market has restored confidence in home ownership.

Wilson's £41 million was 38.5 per cent up on the £29.6 million it made in 1995. It was helped by a nine-month contribution from Trencherwood, the house-builder based in Newbury, Berkshire, bought last year.

In total, Wilson sold 2,500 homes, against 1,916 in 1995, at an average price of £106,000, up from £100,000. About 60 per cent of the new homes were in the South of England, where the com-



Wilson: higher prices

pany is achieving price increases. Property development contributed profits of £9.7 million. An increased final dividend of 8p increases the total to 11p, up from 10.15p.

Tay Homes was helped by a £2.8 million profit on the sale of a subsidiary. The company sold 631 homes in the six months to the end of 1996, at an average price of £77,300. The interim dividend was increased to 1.7p (15.5p).

TT ready to spend on acquisitions

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

TT GROUP, the engineering company, is looking to spend up to £150 million this year on bolt-on acquisitions.

John Newman, chairman, said that the company is considering a number of possible purchases, but added that with sales prices rising ahead of the general election, it was content to be patient.

Mr Newman's comments came as TT unveiled a 19 per cent increase in profits, excluding tax, to £53.5 million. TT said that around 15 per cent of this increase had come from organic growth.

Mr Newman said that order books in the first part of this year were running ahead of forecasts and the company was confident of continued growth.

The upbeat statement helped shares in the company to rise 12½p to 347½p.

Overall turnover rose by 8.5 per cent to £520 million and the total dividend was increased by 16 per cent to 7.59p.

The electronic components division increased profits by 14 per cent to £27.5 million and the industrial division's increased by nearly 30 per cent to £15.5 million.

A final dividend of 4.79p is payable on May 22.

ECC dives into the red and cuts dividend

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

WRITEDOWNS and restructuring charges plunged English China Clays £42.9 million into the red last year and prompted a 25 per cent cut in the total dividend.

Losses were 18.83p a share for the year (21.04p earnings). The final dividend is reduced to 7p (11.2p), reducing the total to 12.5p (16.7p).

The chemicals and minerals group, which took one-off charges of £95 million in 1996, said it had passed the worst of its trading cycle and was optimistic of improving fortunes this year.

Of the exceptional costs it bore in the year to the end of December, £57.8 million related to kaolin reserves in Middle Georgia. In 1995 pre-tax profits were £95.1 million.

Lower sales to the paper industry and tighter margins on chemical sales combined to drag the operating profits down 37 per cent to £65.6 million. The company set aside £10.1 million to restructure its European minerals and North American chemicals operations.

ECC said it was committed to maximising the cash flow from its minerals businesses and restoring the value of the speciality chemicals opera-

tions. It said the outlook for performance minerals was encouraging while cost reductions in chemicals were aiding margin recovery. North America was already showing hopeful signs, the company said, with a recovery in mineral volumes for the paper industry in the recent bidding round. Forward orders were improving, ECC said.

Tempus, page 32

Helphire to raise £5.5m

HELPHIRE GROUP, a car hire and repair specialist based in Bath, is seeking to raise £5.5 million from a stock market flotation next week.

The company is placing six million shares at 100p, capitalising it at £16.3 million. Williams de Broe is acting as sponsor, financial adviser and broker. Dealing is expected to begin on Monday.

Helphire reported pre-tax profits of £546,000 in the year to March 31.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

The politics of publication

THE Institute of Directors has had its nose put out of joint by the CBI's decision to switch the publication date of its news-grabbing quarterly trends survey.

"Blast them," was the reaction from one of the IoD's staff on hearing the news that the CBI's show-stealing survey will be published on the same day as its annual conference.

Meanwhile, with the conference due to be held only eight days before the general election, the IoD took the decision some time ago not to give house room to any politicians.

Whether its president, Lord Young of Grassington, former head of Cable and Wireless, and before that a Conservative Cabinet minister, will be able to rein in his normal gung-ho support for the Tories is another thing.

Taste of the US

NEWS that Nick Leslau is to take *Noddy* to the United States is not a total surprise. The chief executive of Trocadero is a lover of all things American — not least his wife. Writing in *Food For Thought* — a collection of favoured eating habits from 40 captains of the property industry, to be published next month in aid of Centrepunt — Leslau waxed eloquent over the "American breakfast at home". Before taking his children to Sunday School, he spends an hour, "with no less care than a major development project", preparing eggs, toast, fruit, pancakes and lashing of maple syrup.



Roddick: defiant over future of Body Shop

Body amour

FIGHTING talk from Anita Roddick, who insists the Body Shop will never be taken over. In a TV interview to be shown on EBN this coming weekend, the founder and chief executive of the beauty emporium says: "No body's going to take over the Body Shop. It's so difficult, so emotional, with the intimacies of the franchisees. It's a bit like taking over a marital agreement." Particularly when your husband is chairman.

Fine memories

KIT JEBENS, the ex-army officer who took command of the now-defunct Ladbroke, has sent me a reminder of when she ruled. In *A Pioneer Regulator* (1996-1999) Jebens recalls the quaint theory that, if his charges broke the rules, they got hammered. The roll call of fines includes: Union (€300,000); J Rothschild Assurance (€100,000); Legal & General (€180,000) and Aegon (€225,000). Nowadays, to the consumer at least, it appears that anything goes.

Staff protection

NWSA is dipping its toe into the €77 million black hole at NatWest Markets. The NatWest staff unions calling for a halt to the continual push for performance-led rewards. NWSA wants a guarantee that staff elsewhere in the group will be compensated for the "inevitable loss to this situation".

MORAG PRESTON

Business greets polling date with relief and equanimity

Philip Bassett and Janet Bush find industry's leaders cool as the election begins in earnest

BUSINESS responded coolly yesterday to the starting gun for the 1997 general election. Faced with the prospect of a six-week election campaign, leaders squared their shoulders and braced themselves for politics wholly subsuming business and the economy.

The pre-election phony war has been running for so long that business, like everyone else, has been operating on an election footing for a good while. Indeed, the Confederation of British Industry published its pre-election manifesto for business as long ago as last July. As one business leader put it yesterday: "We have been anticipating this for 18 months. So all I can say now is thank God it's finally here."

Yet, at the same time, British business recognises that the May 1 election will be of crucial importance. Dr Ian Peters, Deputy Director-General of the British Chambers of Commerce, says it will be the "most important election for British business for decades" — a recognition by business that, realistically, for the first time since 1974, this will be an election in which more than one side can win.

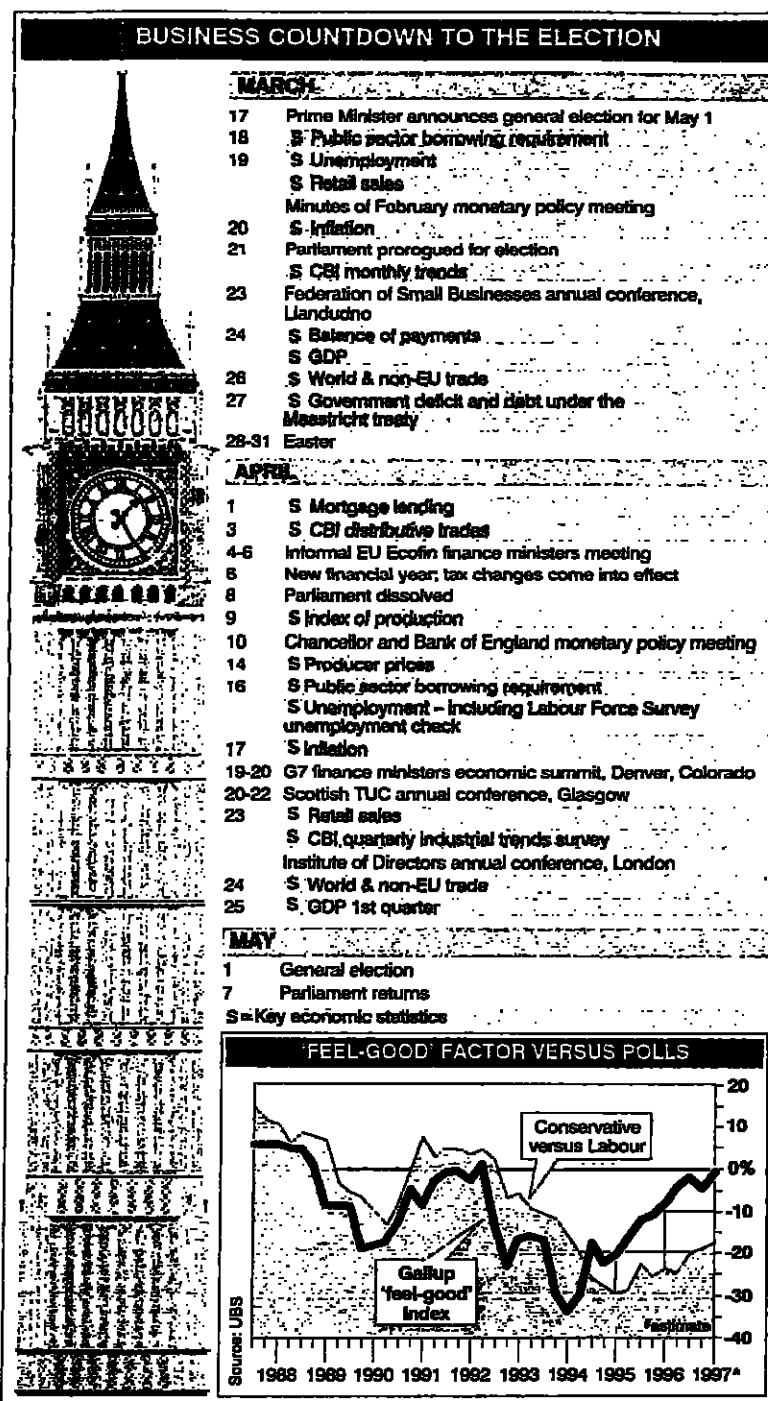
The CBI said that it would be looking for a "constructive" debate on the key issues for business — including maintaining macroeconomic stability, low inflation and the single currency. The CBI's spring quarterly industrial trends survey, due eight days before polling day, will be a vital business and economic indicator late in the campaign.

The Institute of Directors will stage its annual conference on the same day, breaking years of tradition by not including politicians among the business leaders from Microsoft, W.H. Smith, British Airways and others who are due to speak.

The IoD will stress its political neutrality. Conservatives who look to business to maintain its traditional support for the party see such moves as, at best, an insurance policy in the event of a Labour victory, and at worst as something close to betrayal.

Business leaders agree the economy will be a key electoral battle and Conservative strategists hope to benefit from a string of economic announcements over the period of the campaign. Economic headlines during the campaign are expected to be mildly positive. Inflation is expected to fall, as well as headline unemployment, and, come April, voters will see the benefits of last November's tax cuts in their wage packets, although, with the average taxpayer only £150 a year better off, the amounts involved are relatively small.

There is widespread confidence that the economic background to the election, as well as prospects for the next couple of years, are relatively benign, with steady, non-inflationary growth in prospect. The latest Treasury compilation of nearly 50 independent fore-



casts, all almost certain to assume a Labour victory, scarcely constitutes a doomsday scenario.

The consensus prediction for growth this year is 3.3 per cent, falling only slightly to around 2.8 per cent in 1998. Underlying inflation, excluding mortgage interest payments, is expected to end this year at around 2.7 per cent, a touch above the Government's target of 2.5 per cent or less, and recently adopted by Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor. By the end of 1998 inflation is expected to have risen a little to 3.2 per cent.

Forecasts for interest rates — those bell-wethers of a government's competence in pursuing stable and sustainable growth — are expected to rise to 7 per cent by the end of this year, from 6 per cent now, and to stay there through 1998. This speaks neither of a return to tax-and-spend profligacy by a Labour government after 18 years in the political wilderness, nor of a rampant 1980s-style consumer boom let loose by a government way behind in the

opinion polls and desperate for electoral rehabilitation.

Equal credit for the market's equanimity goes to Gordon Brown and to Kenneth Clarke. The Shadow Chancellor has gone out of his way to pledge himself to a broad fiscal and monetary framework indistinguishable from the one laid out by the current Government. Mr Brown has committed himself to a tough inflation target and to the same spending plans as Mr Clarke for the first two years. There may be widespread cynicism about whether the spending plans — tight in the extreme — can be met but that applies to a government of either colour.

For his part Mr Clarke has, unlike some illustrious predecessors, resisted the temptation of pump-priming the economy for electoral purposes. He has been responsible with fiscal policy and, for all the intensity of the debate about his arguments over interest rates with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, he cannot be accused of being

cavalier with monetary policy for electoral ends.

The City believes that taxes will have to be raised in the years ahead to ensure that the public finances continue to return to health but there is no sense that a dramatic fiscal tightening is needed. Base rates are expected to be raised shortly after the election — whichever party wins — but the necessary increase is expected to be extremely modest.

All this should be positive for the Government but, as the accompanying chart shows, a huge gap has opened between the level of "feel-good" among voters and the opinion polls. Mr Clarke has never tired of telling the electorate that Britain faces the best economic prospects for a generation but this has not translated into greater support for his party.

The City has traditionally responded to the idea of a Labour government with unadulterated gloom and, sure enough, the financial markets indulged in a momentary wobble yesterday. But the truth is that the markets are confident that New Labour has genuinely cast off the sins of its past and that the economy will not develop much differently whether there is a Labour or a Conservative victory.

The only development that would really worry investors would be a sharp narrowing of the polls during the campaign, posing the risk of a hung Parliament and all the associated uncertainty, though on current poll trends that looks unlikely.

Poll evidence suggests that business leaders are less sure about the outcome of the election than the voters generally. Yesterday a survey of executives in some 250 businesses, employing 1.4 million staff, saw half of the industrialists sampled hoping for a Labour victory, either alone or with Liberal Democrat support — a result seized upon by Tony Blair as a "remarkable" endorsement by business of the changes wrought under his leadership.

But other, longer-run business poll evidence is more guarded, showing most managers still supporting the Conservatives, with more than 40 per cent of the vote — though that support has dwindled markedly since the 1992 election. It showed, too, marked stability of business support for Labour among a section of the electorate that has traditionally backed the Conservatives.

William Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Alastair Darling, his Labour Shadow, are both in the City this morning at a Bloomberg seminar, spelling out their parties' respective pitches for business support. Business has now had a good chance to look at Labour, as well as the Conservatives, and is far from daunted by what it sees.

Indeed, business leaders acknowledge privately that if they had to sum up the view from industry and services of the outcome of the election campaign, it is this: that if Labour wins, business wants to influence its policies and steer them in its direction; that in spite of polls such as yesterday's, business still doesn't want Labour to win; but that, in line with the polls generally, business thinks that Labour is going to win. "We may not much like it," says one key business leader, "but that's how it's looking."



ANATOLE KALETSKY

Tories rely on dated theory

Is it really possible that a government presiding over rapid economic growth, falling unemployment, rising living standards and the healthiest economy in Europe will be booed out by an ungrateful electorate?

The Conservatives have always believed that such a possibility defied the laws of human nature. People might claim they were angry about the Government's incompetence, they might express disgust with ministerial arrogance and dishonesty, they might say that they want to pay more taxes for health, education or transport, but when the big day finally arrived they would not be voting with their mouths, they would be voting with their wallets.

In the final analysis, people would be motivated by their own material interests, and on that basis the Tories were bound to win.

The Tories may still convince the voters that Labour rule will cost them £30 billion, or some other nightmarish figure. But if the Tories lose, the theory of "economic determinism" which has dominated British politics for decades will have to be junked once and for all.

The idea that election results can be confidently predicted by forecasting economic variables such as personal incomes is not merely an insult to the intelligence of the voters, it is also factually untrue. Despite frequent claims by political pundits and financial analysts to have discovered a foolproof formula for predicting election results on the basis of wages, mortgage rates, house prices, unemployment or any combination of the above, no statistically reliable correlation has ever been found between economics and votes.

This is a point I made frequently on these pages after 1992, when it began to look rather likely that the British economy would enjoy a long period of good economic performance, but that Mr Major's political fortunes would go from bad to worse. However, in spite of all the evidence, economic determinism holds most politicians in its thrall. It is worth considering, there-

fore, why it seems to be failing in 1997.

First, there is the possibility that the economy is not really doing all that well. Mr Major may claim that "Europe is not working" and that Britain is now the "enterprise centre" of the universe, but he should consider the following statistic as he downs a pint of Guinness to celebrate St Patrick's Day. The Republic of Ireland has been growing at 6 per cent annually for the past three years, compared with Britain's 2 per cent. As a result, the Republic's per capita income "will soon exceed Britain's for the first time since the Dark Ages", to quote a recent paper by David Hale, the chief economist of Zurich Insurance.

Another reason for the Government's failure to capitalise on good economic performance may be the monetarist conventional wisdom that governments can do nothing to increase growth or employment. In my view, this conventional wisdom is misguided; government macroeconomic policy can have huge economic consequences, for good or ill. But, ironically, the Tories may have been so successful at promoting their laissez faire doctrines that they cannot now claim the credit for economic success.

Another possible reason for the divergence between economics and politics is more interesting and more important. People may simply be less materialistic than the pundits assume. People are swayed not just by money, but also by qualities such as leadership, honesty and fairness. Opinion polls also show that voters are willing to pay more taxes if they believe that the money will be spent on improving health, education, transport and other services.

Nonsense, say the cynics, people just say they are altruistic to pollsters, but they always vote for lower taxes in the privacy of the polling booth. Perhaps, but how do the cynics know that voters are so materialistic? Their only real evidence that people lie to the pollsters is that the Tories keep getting re-elected. What, then, will the cynics say if Labour wins?

Hope for Nadir after SFO is trampled by 'stalking horse'

Jon Ashworth on the implications of Forsyth's successful appeal



Asil Nadir will press for charges against him to be dropped

Elizabeth Forsyth will be remembered as the woman who introduced fashion to serious fraud trials. Roger Levitt had his bow tie. Kevin and Ian Maxwell had their City slicker suits. But no one could match Asil Nadir's former adviser, with her coat, gloves and flamboyant neck scarves.

Mrs Forsyth turned up at Bow Street Magistrates court in central London in September 1994 little realising what lay in store. She had returned from northern Cyprus a month earlier to be interviewed by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) and was just an employee, "she would tell you." "So much was going on at Polly Peck International (PPI) in those days, and besides, Middle Eastern people had a funny way of doing things."

Others saw a more cynical motive in her return. She was there, it was said, to test the waters for Mr Nadir. This was the "stalking horse" theory. If Mrs Forsyth walked free, Mr Nadir would be swift to follow.

Two-and-a-half years later, the "plan", if there ever was one, appears to be back on track. Yesterday's ruling in the Court of Appeal is about as damning towards the trial judge, Mr Justice Tucker, and implicitly towards the SFO, as a ruling is ever likely to be. Lord Justice Beldam, sitting with Mrs Justice Bracewell and Mr Justice Mance, spare no quarter in their annihilation of the Forsyth prosecution.

The appeal ruling makes much of two bit-players in the Polly Peck drama — John Turner, the former group chief accountant, and Jason Davies,

the stockbroker who supposedly assisted Mrs Forsyth. Mr Turner was originally due to stand trial alongside Mr Nadir, but the SFO decided not to proceed against him after Mr Nadir fled the UK in May 1993. It was felt that he could simply have pinned everything on his absent co-defendant, significantly reducing the likelihood of a successful prosecution.

So why Mrs Forsyth? As the ruling says: "On its face, it seems a strange decision to press home the prosecution against one who appears to have been involved at short notice in assisting in an isolated transaction on the fringe of an immense misuse of company funds, and at the same time to release from all 'mini-

responsibility the group chief accountant alleged to have been more closely, extensively and frequently involved."

Plausible enough, although the SFO would argue that the Forsyth case was strong enough to stand by itself.

The Jason Davies point is more obtuse. During its deliberations, the Forsyth jury sent the judge a note, asking why Mr Davies had not been called by the defence. Much had been made of his role in helping Mrs Forsyth handle nearly £400,000 in stolen funds during her visit to Switzerland in 1989. Why was he not there to put his side of the story? Mr Davies was

believed to be in Spain and had no intention of attending the Central Criminal Court.

The ruling criticises Mr Justice Tucker for not giving the jury the usual guidance in dealing with absent witnesses — that they must decide the case on the evidence heard. Without it, the jury might have read something suspicious in Mr Davies's absence and been less inclined to believe Mrs Forsyth's account of the money transfers.

The appeal court judges say Mr Justice Tucker "plainly fell into error" in not allowing Mr Nadir to give evidence from northern Cyprus by video link. They further accuse him of a "material misdirection" in telling the jury that suspecting something was stolen and turning a blind eye to it was as good as believing it to be so. This could have tipped the scales in favour of a guilty verdict.

Whatever, Mrs Forsyth is now free and vindicated, and Mr Nadir is claiming victory. His lawyers are expected to press for the charges against him to be dropped, clearing the way for his return to Britain.

All well and good — but for one thing. The SFO is adamant that the case against Mr Nadir goes on. The charges against him — 13 counts alleging theft and false accounting — are quite distinct from those in the Forsyth trial. The case has no wider application.

To the public, the Forsyth outcome spells fresh disaster for the SFO. Its overall prosecution rate is good, but it is the high-profile failures that are remembered. Rosalind Wright will be intensely aware of this when she succeeds George Staple as director on April 21.

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Landlords accused of acting unreasonably

Legal changes to protect business tenants 'flawed'

By Rodney Hobson



Acheson: tenants worse off

CHANGES in the law designed to protect tenants in commercial properties have actually made matters worse for small businesses, according to a solicitor who acts for landlords as well as tenants.

Landlords are writing unreasonable terms into their leases to overcompensate for lost rights under the Landlord and Tenant (Covenants) Act 1995, Gavin Acheson, an assistant solicitor at Farrer & Co, a London firm of solicitors, says.

Mr Acheson raised his fears in response to a report in *The Times* on March 4 of the case of Sue Gallagher, a Leamington Spa restaurant owner who had to pay her landlord's legal fees of £1,000 in order to assign the lease to new owners.

The Act, which came into force in January last year, was intended to remove the liability of tenants for unpaid rent for the whole term of a lease, even if the lease was re-assigned several times. The existing law meant that previous tenants could be forced to pay rent for complete strangers.

Mr Acheson says: "The philosophy behind the Act was that it is inequitable for tenants, and particularly business tenants, to remain liable under tenant covenants after the point at which they are no longer able to procure compliance with those covenants."

He went on: "But the effect of the Act is to put the business tenant who takes a new lease in a significantly worse position than he was in just over a year ago."

Mr Acheson says that landlords have added clauses to leases that effectively offset the philosophy of the Act.

For example, a tenant who assigns a lease can still be forced to accept liability for rent unpaid by the next tenant.

The second tenant, in turn, will be unable to reassign the lease unless he or she accepts liability for the following tenant.

"The proportion of new leases of 20 years or more fell from 70 per cent in the late 1980s to 30 per cent in 1995," Mr Acheson says. "Leases of ten years or less now account for a third of the market. Leases for small businesses and shopkeepers are generally for still shorter terms. Since most tenants seek to assign only after five to seven years of occupation, the original tenant is going to remain directly liable for the full term of the lease."

Although landlords cannot unreasonably refuse to allow a



Oh no! It's the landlord!

lease to be assigned to a new tenant, they can impose severe financial and other preconditions that have to be met.

Mr Acheson says that he has seen leases that stipulate that a new tenant must have audited accounts showing profits as high as five times the rent, plus insurance and service charge. Some even require the new tenant to have net assets of ten times the rent.

Some landlords can also refuse to allow leases to be assigned if there has been any breach of covenant by the tenant.

Mr Acheson says: "Leases can contain 20 pages of tenant's covenants. It is inevitable that there will have been some footling breach of covenant." While large companies may be able to resist the more onerous clauses, small businesses have little option but to sign, he adds.

The most serious change in the law, Mr Acheson says, is that where a tenant believes a landlord is being unreasonable the burden of proof has been shifted from the landlord to the tenant.

"The tenant can almost certainly not afford to pursue proceedings given the likely prohibitive cost and the uncertainty of the outcome," he says. "The potential consequences of losing the deal, which may involve the sale of the tenant's business, including goodwill built up in years of trading, will be so serious that the tenant will in practice have no choice but to comply with the landlord's demands."

He went on: "If the small shopkeeper cannot assign his lease, he will be unable, in many cases, to sell his business because goodwill, particularly in the case of shops, largely attaches to the premises."



Margaret Elam says locals appreciate the personal touch but is concerned that the petrol price war is threatening the wellbeing of her business

Old-fashioned service fuels family venture

By Veronica Heath

MOTORISTS in rural areas of northeast England have to drive longer than average distances to work and to go shopping, Belsay garage, on the A68 between Newcastle upon Tyne and Jedburgh, provides an essential attendant service for customers.

Margaret Elam, the garage owner, had been working in the filling station business for 15 years before setting up on her own. Before that she had been employed as a secretary so she was trained in office and accountancy work.

"I actually left the office on maternity leave," she said. "But I had been wanting a change and when I returned to work after the baby I got a job as a console operator in a self-service garage."

She enjoyed the contact with the public and decided she wanted to manage a garage herself. From console operator, she progressed to managing the site that she had been working on. "So I had experience from the bottom level for many years before I took the plunge to go it alone," she said.

By this time, she had remarried and her husband lent her £1,000 to lease the newly vacated existing garage premises on the Belsay estate. She said: "So

from week one I was able to pay my way and I bought the pumps and fittings outright."

The business offers attendant service. Mrs Elam says the locals appreciate this and in a country community there is still a demand for it. "The locals are very supportive and there is good passing trade on this highway, especially in the holiday periods with the tourists," she said. "The garage is opposite one of the surviving village shops in the county so customers can stop for a double purpose."

The business has subsidiary sales in plants, crafts, fuel (coal, logs and kindling), motor accessories and confectionery. Mrs Elam's son, now 21, is employed almost full-time on the forecourt and her teenage daughter works during the holidays. But the petrol price war has hit the private garage business very hard.

"The big oil companies will no longer deal with small garages because we don't have a big enough turnover," she said. "I have to buy my petrol and diesel from an independent distributor, which in my case is WCF - West Cumberland Farmers."

She has been worried about last November's Budget and its implications for motorists

and has written to the Prime Minister and to Tony Blair and her local MP about it. "The decision to raise duty on petrol by 3p a litre and diesel by 1p hits independent garages like mine very hard," she said. "As well as increasing travelling costs for motorists everywhere, the cost of freight transport has inevitably risen. This has a knock-on effect on services in rural areas and, if I am forced to close, people who live in the country will lose an important service. This year's turnover has broken even, but 1996 was a tough year. I'll carry on as long as I can."

Barclays forecasts increase in company start-ups and survivors

By Rodney Hobson

SMALL business start-ups in England and Wales will rise this year while closures will level off, Barclays Bank forecasts. Growth and survival rates will continue to improve for the rest of this decade, the bank says in its latest *Small Business Bulletin*.

The forecast contrasts with figures for last year, which Barclays says showed a fall in "mainstream" start-ups and a rise in closures. Mainstream businesses are those set up as a sole occupation while "non-mainstream" are run by people with other jobs.

The total UK business stock rose 1 per cent last year, to 3.85 million, but Barclays says that was principally due to the increase in non-mainstream businesses, which now account for one in three companies. Mainstream start-ups fell 2.4 per cent, to 447,000, while closures soared 17 per cent, to 520,000.

However, David Lavarack, small business services director at Barclays, says: "This year should see the number of mainstream small business start-ups increase by 5 per cent as long-term economic stability and levels of business confidence continue to improve. At the same time, we

expect to see business closures level off, leading to a 1 per cent increase in the total UK business stock to 3.9 million."

"We expect the growth in the number of small businesses, coupled with gradually improving survival rates, to lead to a larger and more mature business stock, well placed to take advantage of the predicted growth in UK economic activity to the year 2000," if

Mr Lavarack is right, about 470,000 mainstream start-ups will be seen this year.

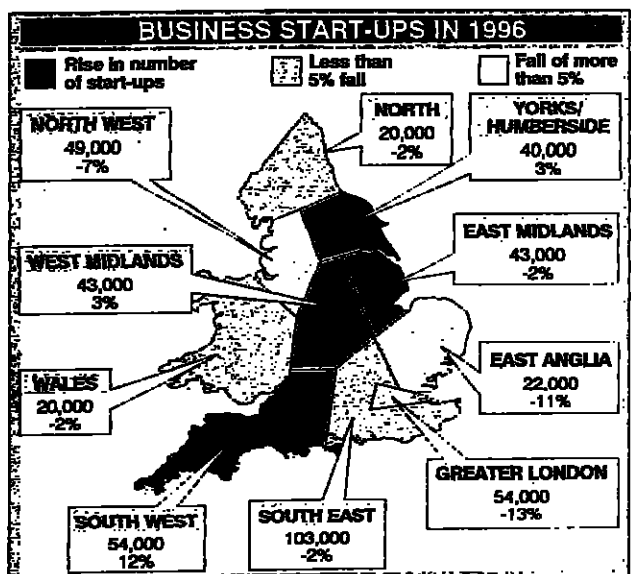
The retail sector, which saw the greatest number of start-ups in 1996 and accounted for one in five new businesses, will continue to lead the way. However, retailers account for only 10 per cent of all business stock and Mr Lavarack said: "The over-representation of retailing in start-ups reflects

the high turnover of business in the sector, where closures at least equal the number of new businesses."

"The sector is expected to perform well, with output forecast to grow by 4 per cent in 1997, but the competitive nature of the sector means further rationalisation is likely and much of the increase in sales will benefit larger retailers."

Leisure and personal services, such as sports and health clubs, accounted for 10.5 per cent of last year's start-ups, although they made up only 7.5 per cent of existing businesses.

Mr Lavarack said: "This is an expanding sector of the business stock which has been boosted by increased disposable incomes and more leisure time. In contrast, the construction industry recorded a lower share of start-ups at 3 per cent, compared with the sector's share of the business stock at 20 per cent, reflecting the effects of the recession and the subsequent decline in output." Barclays reports increasing business confidence and says that four fifths of new businesses now survive into their second year, compared with three quarters in 1994.



Grants give Welsh firms export boost

By Iola Smith

GRANT aid is assisting 13 businesses from rural Wales to break into export markets. The £50,000 that the companies will share will finance feasibility studies, sales promotions, market research and the translation of brochures.

"The awards are of particular benefit to small companies who need an injection of cash to augment their own export resources," says Bethan Jones, of the Mid Wales Export Association.

In the past the aid has enabled rural companies to attract £2 million worth of extra export business.

The 1997 winners include Aber Instruments, the Aberystwyth University spin-off company which designs

brewing equipment. This company has received £5,000 to launch a sales drive in China - the country that is forecast to become the biggest beer market in the world by the year 2000.

Dulas Limited, the alternative energy company, has obtained £3,000 to win Latin American markets for its solar-powered medical refrigeration systems.

Cwt y Bugall, the family-owned slate quarry business, has received a £2,500 grant to promote Welsh roofing slate in Japan.

And Chic to Chic, the fashion accessories firm based in Brecon, has won £1,500 to develop a new range of hats and scarves for retail outlets in France and Germany.

Step, the programme that places students in small businesses for eight weeks in the summer holiday, aims to place 1,500 students this year. The scheme, run by Shell UK, has been going for ten years. It gives small businesses a link with a university and its facilities and allows them to explore projects for which they had insufficient time or resources. The DTI has contributed £1 million to the programme. Students are paid £100 a week, with the host firm paying half. Step 1997: 01635 529125.

□ The *Lloyds Bank Tax Guide* has been rewritten for the 1997-98 tax year to take account of self-assessment. The 12th edition, by Sara Williams and John Willman and published on April 3 by Profile Books, costs £7.99.

□ British Chambers of Commerce has produced a free handbook on overseas trade missions. The organisation

will run more than 130 trade missions to 80 countries in 1997-98. Contact: BCC, 4 Westwood House, Westwood Business Park, Coventry CV4 8HS.

□ The Department of Trade and Industry will next month start offering practical video-conferencing experience to small companies at four Business Link centres as part of its Information Society Initiative. Though computers are being networked by 61 per cent of small businesses, and e-mail is used by 35 per cent of those with computers, few small businesses use video-conferencing, the DTI has found.

□ The future of small shopkeepers will be debated at a seminar being held by the Association of Small and Historic Towns and Villages at Newent, Gloucestershire, on Saturday. Delegates will consider ways to maintain the prosperity of the high street and the community it serves.

BRIEFINGS



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THEATRE 1

Dreamers in a small Welsh town are the subject of the blisteringly funny *Badfinger*



THEATRE 2

... but at the Gate, *In the Solitude of Cotton Fields* is French drama at its most pretentious



THE TIMES ARTS

POP

A new touring show suggests that James are a band without a clear mission



TOMORROW

Summer sights and sounds: *The Times* offers a guide to 50 of the top British festivals



Cruelty comes in all shapes

Luke Clancy reports on a wild and disturbing Dublin theatre festival

THE LAST time Antonin Artaud staged an invasion of Dublin, back in 1937, he travelled alone and soon found himself locked up in Mountjoy prison and subsequently deported back to France. For his second coming, Artaud has gathered a large number of sympathetic friends in the shape of the increasingly important Bedrock theatre company. True, Artaud is not alive any more, but his often-cited writings have more than made up for that minor shortcoming, sparking this young group of actors, writers and directors to dedicate a month of performances to Marseilles's most influential mental patient.

Bedrock cannot be accused of slavishly following traditional notions of what Artaud's always sloppy, even fugitive writings had to say. One of the strengths of Bedrock, the company's Theatre of Cruelty season at the Project Arts Centre, is that it uses the texts as a springboard for a variety of types of performance, ranging from lightweight mythological comedies to simple storytelling.

The festival programme was designed as a kind of pyramid, coming to a head in the third week with the Irish premiere of Edward Bond's *Early Morning*. Before this climax, each evening was made up of several short works, interpreted by various casts.

The initial programme included Heiner Müller's *Obituary*, and a specially commissioned monologue by Mark O'Rowe, but opened with Jimmy Fay's production of *Catastrophe*. Fay offered a standard delivery of the author's cartoonish vision of a rehearsal for a Body Art performance, which was never played crisply enough for Beckett's trip-switch between nastiness and laughter to be thrown. Far better was Jason Byrne's essay at *What Where*, a taut fragment, snappily played by Ned Dennehy, Tony Flynn and Andrew Bennett, and lit with eerie cathode-ray precision by Lee Davis and Paul Keogan.

The writing in these Beckett pieces, succinct, precise and elusive, made an uncomfortable contrast to that of Mark O'Rowe's *Anna Ankle*. The story of a sadistic snuff-video director and his obsession with a vulnerable young girl's ankle was presumably intended as an ironic examination of gender politics, but instead came across as a decidedly

nasty, rambling and undigested fantasy. Unsteady playing by Patrick Leach and weak, meandering writing from O'Rowe did not help.

The next programme sandwiched together a number of dramatic works by Müller with a commissioned work by Gavin Kostick. In *Forced*, Kostick seemed to stay well clear of Artaud, offering the imagistic tale of an Ulster newspaper boy with a surprising number of figures from Celtic history and mythology on his round. The piece seemed exactly the sort of conventional literary exercise self-conscious storytelling with winking topical allusions — which would have felt like a nasty dose of ECT to Artaud.

Müller's labyrinthine *Wasteland* *Material Landscape* with Argonauts offered yet another sumptuous lighting plot, but did not attain even lunatic coherence until a long closing monologue, conjured with impressive otherworldly energy by Karl Shiels.

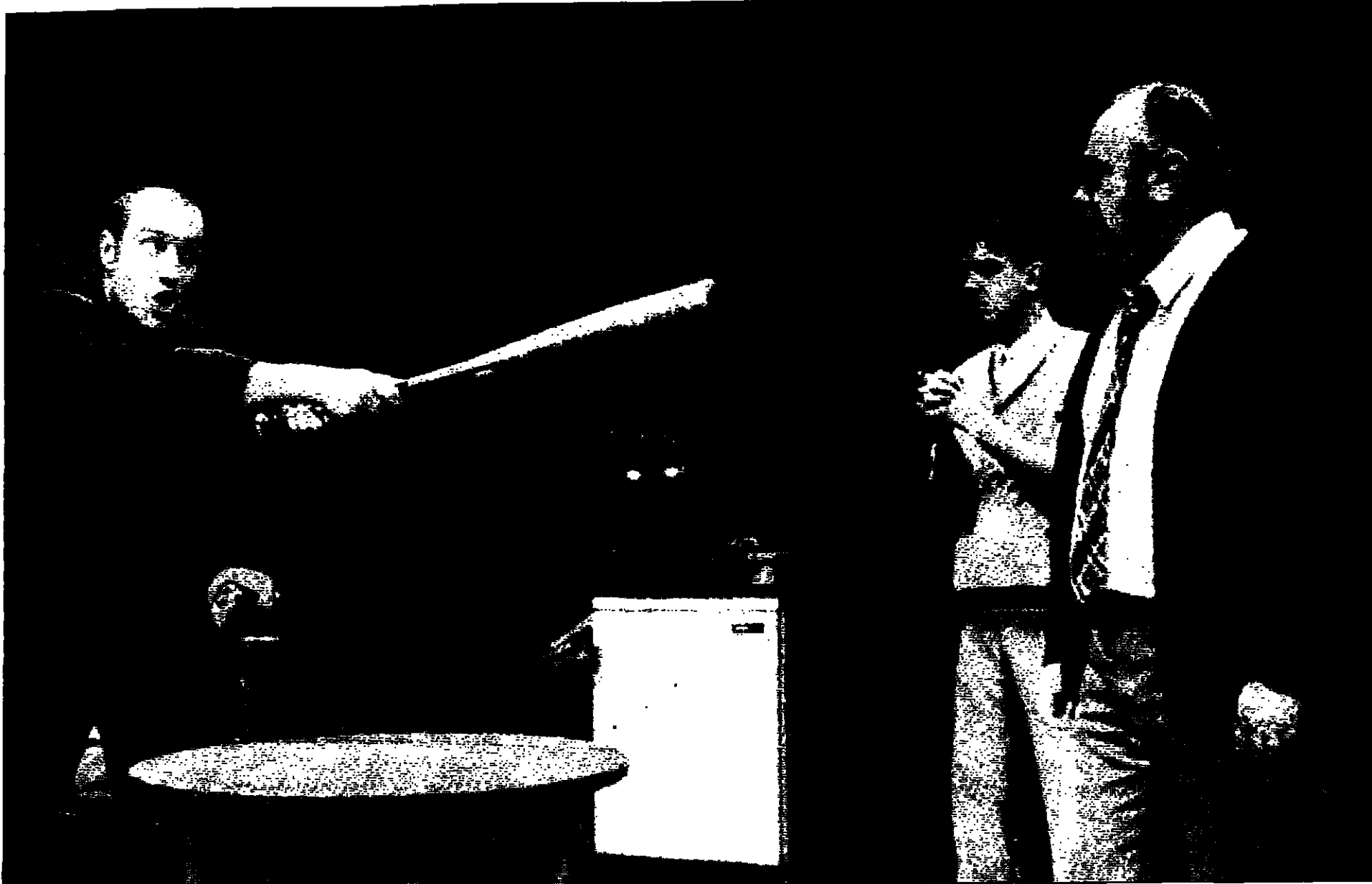
The only play allowed to stand alone was Bond's late 1960s satire, *Early Morning*. This manic vision of the history of Queen Victoria portrayed as a viciously scheming murderer who rapes and enslaves

Florence Nightingale before dying and finding herself in a heaven where cannibalism is the chief pastime, might have been censored from an early episode of *Monty Python*.

Bond's increasingly deranged drama moves heavily through black comedy and bloody tragedy, and then marches on into a frustrating alternative universe where logic just does not work. Fay's direction of the mammoth ensemble cast coaxed some excellent performances, particularly from Liz Kuti as dizzo, schizophrenic Florence. Mary O'Driscoll as the dangerously self-possessed queen, and Tony Flynn as Len, a scheming job who starts a vogue for cannibalism.

Where the production was less sure-footed was in its design. The company could hardly be expected to chomp their way through real arms and legs, but the baskets full of red-fingered hunks of shop-battered mannequin limbs were at once too explicit and too short on visceral impact, leaving an undeniable impression of timidity: not the final impression one would have expected from what was a demanding, courageous and significant theatrical event.

The cast could not be expected to chomp through real arms and legs



"A subtle way of rooting characters in their small-town environment": Rhodri Hugh, Jason Hughes and Robert Blythe in Simon Harris's *Badfinger*, at the Donmar Warehouse

A peak scaled in the Valleys

LONDON THEATRE: Jeremy Kingston happily enjoys a rare Welsh bit, and unhappily endures an unintended French farce

THIS year's *Four Corners* season at the Donmar Warehouse has dropped a corner, but its three visiting companies are being given twice the amount of time, so that each production will run for two weeks, give or take a few previews. Number two in the threesome, a Declan Hughes play from Ireland, is an obvious candidate for inclusion, although the same cannot be said for the final one, David Eldridge's new play set in E13. West Enders may feel Barking to be just this side of the Siberian wastes, but the choice smacks of parochialism to me.

Nothing eccentric about the opening production, however. *Badfinger* is a blisteringly funny account of dreamers struggling for the big time, set in a junk shop in Wales. All right, this setting suggests

Mamet's *American Buffalo*, as author Simon Harris is probably sick of hearing, and the bombast mouthed by some of his no-hopers adds to the similarity. But, in his first full-length play, Harris finds a subtle way of rooting his characters in their small-town environment, the Welshness emerging through rhythms of speech just occasionally emphasised by wild repetition. "We'll be lacerated! Gashed! Smashed to smithereens!" one cries when a moneylender's vengeance looms.

The programme notes include a luminous quotation from Paul Eluard: "There is another world, and it is in this one," the motto of every re-

former, social or personal. Meyrick (Robert Blythe) dreams of turning the street-singer he finds outside a shopping mall into a star, but has to fend off the claims of would-be partners, a ludicrously deranged youth who will fling himself through the shop's window as a quick way in, and a Bible-chanting goon come to reclaim a debt.

This sinister villain (Rhodri Hugh) enters to a fortissimo burst of satanic music, in a red light, and a measure of Michael Sheen's assured staging is that the production accommodates such operatic touches. In scene changes, and to enhance the thrill of critical moments, the music grows, stutters and shrieks, so that the mood switchbacks between comedy and menace, just as Meyrick's self-confidence hurtles from peak to trough, with stretches of panky misjudgment in between. He, Hugh and the rest of the cast play expertly together, with Rhys Ifans as a languidly desperate cadger, Richard Mylan the anxious window-burster and Jason Hughes the

sweet-voiced but slow-witted waif.

Harris and Sheen are directors of Thin Language, the producing company working in association with Chepstow Films, their ambition being to develop the quantity of quality Welsh playwriting. Wales has always produced good actors, as *Badfinger* vividly demonstrates, and if Harris can build on this first work Thin Language could find itself enjoying a rich future.

Several years ago I passed a rotten evening at Notting Hill's Gate, reluctantly burdening my mind with *The Struggle of the Black Man and the Dogs*, where white colonists shot black workers, suffered mysterious wounds in the groin, and solemnly delivered themselves of gnostic utterances. "Better to kill the fox than preach to the hens," was one such, and obviously the author was from France, where audiences tolerate fatuous proverbs, and make cult figures of their authors.

This particular author was Bernard-Marie Koltes, now dead from Aids, but indeed a cult figure, although for the life of me I cannot grasp what value his dramatic writing possesses. His *In the Solitude of the Cotton Fields* comes to the Gate trumpeting itself as "France's most dangerous new play". Most daft, more like, or most verbally damaged.

When Patrice Chéreau, director of the film *La Reine Margot*, acted in his own production of the play at Edinburgh in 1995 a translation of the French text was included with the programme. Most critics, whether or not they found something good to say of Chéreau's direction, rubbished the language, quoting mind-numbing sentences that zigzagged through ranks of subordinate clauses in order to reach some banal conclusion about the uncertainties of the world.

On a dark street one man hails another. He has something to sell, but will not reveal what he is selling: he is named as the Dealer. The other (the Client) wants to buy, but

refuses to say what it is he will buy.

They verbally spar for an hour, walking back and forth along the gutter, forth and back along the paving stones (urban grub meticulously recreated by Timothy Meaker). Kimon Koufogiannis, the translator, director and Dealer, offers anything the Client desires, strangely courteous but firmly evasive. His pale hands open and close like busy moths.

Joseph Lewis's Client is shifty, uneasy, angrier but no less evasive in stating his requirements, even to the point of asserting that he requires nothing. Gay manoeuvres probably served as the origin of the play, but Koltes tries to reach the essence of any exchange, whether of bodily fluids or mental dominance. The language is so abstract I even lost interest counting the cigarette-ends in the gutter.

Using one of the play's rare images, the Client spoke of a boy who gave up his trousers in order to fly, and for a moment my attention was caught. But then the language truck tipped another load of abstractions over me and my interest disappeared beyond all recovery.

Live, but not as we knew it, Jim

ONCE one of Britain's biggest bands, James now find themselves in somewhat reduced circumstances. At the dawn of the decade they seemed poised to become an English U2 or R.E.M., with a string of memorable hits and an enviable live reputation.

Since then, though, the Mancunian seven-piece have been steadily drifting away from the Zeitgeist. They fired of writing stadium-friendly anthems based around simple three-chord sequences, choosing instead to dabble in anorakish ambient rock and fluid polyrhythms. Singer Tim Booth flirted with acting and spent time in New York, where he recorded a likeable album with sound-track maestro Angelo Badalamenti last year.

But, back on tour after a three-year hiatus, Booth's studious and occasionally precious demeanour appears somewhat ill-suited to our post-Oasis rock climate. At their two-thirds full Newport Centre show on Sunday night, James struggled to match past triumphs with lumpy readings of such former classics as *Come Home and How Was It For You?*

The most warmly received numbers from the band's latest Top Ten album, *Whiplash*, were those which evoked their catchy singalong past, including *Avalanche* and the recent single *She's a Star*. But the set's more left-field mid-section proved something of an endurance test, compelling much of the largely

POP CONCERT

**James
Newport**

over-thirties crowd to slip out and phone their babysitters. At their best, James appear to summon up tumultuous natural forces and ride the crests of roaring tidal waves. Such transcendent moments were few at Newport, though they eventually arrived as the set climaxed with the lusty gallop of *Laid* and the soaring swell of *Sound*. The inevitable grand finale was *Sit Down*, once so powerful that James stopped playing it to avoid the chantic Pavlovian response it inspired. Tellingly, nobody sat down at Newport, the song provoking a ripple of nostalgic hysteria.

Still impressively wiry and energetic after nearly 15 years in pop, James have embraced their late thirties with style. It is just their music which seems to be developing middle-aged spread.

STEPHEN DALTON

Metaphor crazy

DANCE

**David Dorfman
Woking**

umbilically gives scope for gags and pratfalls, and labours the theme of interdependence to exhaustion. Other clunking metaphors abound, the proflix dialogue is less than riveting and *Job* nearly brought me to my knees.

Dorfman's messages about the human condition are confused and eccentric. *Sky Down* could have been an airline love story or an attack on satellite TV for all I could tell.

but was probably more profound, given the cast's darkly significant mutterings and twitches. The costumes with their inappropriate cut-outs were about the most unflattering I have ever seen and, together with the choreography, produced an oddly dehumanising effect, making it impossible to engage with the dancers.

The stressful contours, the awkwardly arched backs and the irrelevant handstands jar

the eye as they probably do the dancers' bodies: so when one man, frozen in a pose, announces "it doesn't feel comfortable", you believe him. That moment comes in the final piece, *Gone Right Back*, in which the dancers speak, become immobile and manipulate each other. It might be a depiction of the function of a choreographer and his dancers, it might be about the philosophical concept of free will. Who knows?

This was a late evening at the Rhoda McGaw Theatre, succinctness having gone out of the door along with Woking Dance Umbrella's judgment.

NADINE MEISNER

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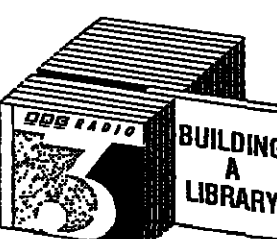
A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

**TCHAIKOVSKY'S
PIANO TRIO**
Reviewed by John Warrack

WHEN Tchaikovsky's patroness Nadezhda von Meck asked him for a Piano Trio, he declined on the grounds that the three instruments did not make a tonal blend. Yet within months he had completed this Trio in memory of Nikolay Rubinstein, making the first of the two long movements one of mourning, and much of the second a set of variations.

This is a work that yields most to artists who can deal with the musical balance: the problems of tonal blend did not go away.

For all the gravity and dignity of their performance, the Borodin Trio, on Chandos, overweight the first movement and their slow tempo gets them into difficulties in holding the music together: moreover, they do not lighten matters sufficiently in the variations. A more sympathetic touch comes from the trio of Yefim Bronfman, Cho-Laing Lin and Gary Hoffman, on Sony. They really listen to one another, and shape the phras-



ing as if each is answering according to what has been said.

This is in contrast to Vladimir Ashkenazy, Itzhak Perlman and Lynn Harrell (EMI), three great artists who address themselves more as if to a large public. All the same, and despite a rather assertive performance from Ashkenazy, there is some splendid playing.

Closing off all to the music, though, is the performance by the Beaux Arts Trio (Phillips 422 400-2, £15.99). They make the cut in the finale which Tchaikovsky sanctioned but otherwise they play everything, warm and an intelligent appreciation of the work's qualities as well as of its problems.

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It's my life, isn't it?

In difficult medical dilemmas, who decides? Gary Slapper looks at the growing involvement of the courts in once-personal decisions

When can doctors, backed by the courts, insist that you have medical treatment against your wishes? Recent developments suggest that the boundaries of permissible involuntary treatment are being extended.

Two interests, those of the patient and of society, often clash in such cases. Characterising these interests in one case, Lord Donaldson of Lynton said that "the patient's interest consists of his right to self-determination — his right to live his own life how he wishes, even if it will damage his health or lead to his premature death. Society's interest is in upholding the concept that all human life is sacred and that it should be preserved if at all possible."

Last week the High Court dealt with two controversial cases of this sort. In a novel case, Mr Justice Wall used common law powers to order a 16-year-old girl to be detained in order to receive treatment for anorexia. The court found the order necessary in the girl's best interests. The girl, whose life was thought by doctors to be at risk, had instructed lawyers to oppose the court order sought by her local authority with the support of her parents.

The High Court also considered an application by Ms S, who had, against her wishes, undergone a Caesarean section and wished to challenge the conduct of the medical authorities who had had her committed to a psychiatric hospital after she refused medical intervention for what was regarded as a dangerous pregnancy.

While the law, on the basis of the patient's impaired ability to make proper judgments, has been used recently to compel more women to have Caesarean section deliveries, its approach to other incidents has been less paternalistic.

In one leading case in 1993, a man with a gangrenous foot, whom doctors judged as having a small chance of survival without an amputation, was allowed an injunction preventing a hospital from ever performing such an unwanted operation. The court respected his right to self-determination — he said he would rather die with two feet than live with just one — even though he was a chronic paranoid schizophrenic who expressed grandiose delusions that, among other things, he was an internationally famous doctor who had never lost a patient. He was regarded as sufficiently

balanced and lucid for his wishes to be respected.

The Court of Appeal recognised the same principle in February when examining the case of Diane Blood, the woman who wanted to use the sperm of her dead husband in order to conceive.

Lord Woolf, acknowledging the principle of bodily autonomy as posited in the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act of 1990, stated that sperm taken from a comatose man without his written consent should not have been preserved or stored. The rationale of this law is that a free person should always retain control of his own body.

The court held that the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority had been right to refuse to license the fertilisation of the man's wife in the United Kingdom. In refusing her an export licence, however, it had not taken into account her right to cross-border medical treatment under Articles 59 and 60 of the EC Treaty.

The dilemma at the heart of these disputes was neatly summed up by Dr Eastman, a consultant lecturer in forensic psychiatry at St George's Hospital. In the gangrene case, *Re C*, he said that the ultimate conclusion should be reached by "weighing in the scales the preservation of life against the autonomy of the patient". If the patient's capacity to decide is unimpaired, autonomy weighs heavier, but the further capacity is reduced, the further autonomy weighs.

The general principles regarding refusal of medical treatment were authoritatively put by the Court of Appeal in a dramatic case, *Re T*, in 1992. A woman who was 34 weeks pregnant was badly injured in a car crash but signed a form in the hospital declining a blood transfusion if one became necessary.

There was evidence that although the patient was not a member of the Jehovah's Witness sect, her mother was and had, while alone with her daughter in the hospital, persuaded her to decline any blood as to do so would violate a biblical principle. There was also evidence that when she signed the refusal of consent form, the patient was not in a fit state to have properly understood the risks of declining a transfusion.

In upholding the hospital's decision to override her apparent refusal, and to give her



Diane Blood: finally won the right to use the sperm of her dead husband to conceive

blood, the Court of Appeal ruled that though adults could generally decline any proposed treatment on any grounds, however perilous or irrational, doctors had the duty to treat a patient in whatever way they deemed to be in his best interests when he lacked sufficient capacity to make a proper judgment. How is a patient's capacity to be measured?

Lady Justice Butler-Sloss observed that several factors will need to be evaluated as "What matters is whether at the time the patient's capacity was reduced below the level needed in the case of a refusal of that importance. Some may involve a risk to life or of irreparable damage to health." Refusals resulting from the patient's mind having been overcome by another person can be overridden.

The problem in the case of *Re S*, and the law's unease in dealing with such issues, is aggravated by factors from the

wider economic and philosophical landscapes.

The proportion of babies born by Caesarean section has trebled since the 1970s from 5 per cent to 16 per cent today, and while a number of such births are indisputably necessary, some are attributable to the practice of "defensive medicine". As the cost to the NHS of medical negligence litigation has risen from about £53 million in 1990-91 to £125 million in 1993-94, many doctors and hospitals are acutely aware of the dangers of being sued and unnecessary surgical deliveries can be recommended in such a context.

The idea of everyone having unassailable bodily autonomy is compatible with a highly individualistic social philosophy but ignores the emotional interests of others who may be connected to the patient. In problematic pregnancy cases, it also ignores, according to the passionately held beliefs of some, the interests of the unborn child. In 1988 the Court of Appeal ruled that the

unborn child does not have a legal personality which the court can protect.

The development of the common law from precedent to precedent is often regarded as a flexible and sensitive way to regulate difficult issues, but in some instances such as the issue of bodily autonomy there is much to support the dictum that "hard cases make bad law".

Dr Slapper is principal lecturer in law, Staffordshire University.

A clearer view of the law on corruption

A former Lord Chancellor, Lord Bingham, said in 1916 that "short of high treason, it is almost impossible to imagine an offence more grave than to corrupt one of these public servants and cause the neglect of his duty".

Corruption offences are found in a multiplicity of statutes, one of which dates back to 1551, and in the common law. This diversity, coupled with the fact that much of the corruption legislation was passed impulsively, prompted by contemporary problems or fears, has led to the law being neither comprehensive nor consistent, and in certain important areas unclear.

It is not surprising, therefore, that in 1976, the Royal Commission on Standards of Conduct in Public Life, chaired by Lord Salmon, recommended the rationalisation of the statute law on bribery. More recently the Nolan Committee pointed out that, as the Government had accepted, but not implemented,

that recommendation, this might be a task the Law Commission could take forward. We have now done so. In our consultation paper published today, we are provisionally proposing a new corruption offence which we believe will rationalise and clarify the present law of bribery. Our new offence would cover corrupt transactions involving a range of individuals who can be said to owe a duty of loyalty towards others: these would include employees, trustees, agents, partners, company directors and legal practitioners, and anybody exercising a discretion on behalf of another, having access to another's assets or influence over another's decision. It would also cover those who owe a duty of loyalty to the public.

We do not deal with MPs. The Government has recently taken steps to clarify the law relating to the bribery of, or the receipt of a bribe by, an MP. It has asked the Select Committee on Standards and Privileges to consider a Home Office document which sets out various options for reform. In these circumstances, we believe it would be inappropriate to look into the issue at this stage. As for offences to our proposed new offence, we provisionally believe that it should not be a defence that the transaction was performed openly or with permission, or was normal practice, or gave rise to a benefit of small value. Nevertheless, given that an essential ingredient of the proposed new offence is that a defendant should have acted "corruptly", we provisionally take the view that each of these factors should have a bearing on the issue.

A fundamental feature of the present law is a distinction between the public and private sector. After the recent programme of

privatisation, however, it is now sometimes difficult to categorise a particular body as public or private. Furthermore, we provisionally believe that, even if this difficulty were not present, the distinction has little bearing on the criminality of an allegedly corrupt agent. We, therefore, provisionally favour dispensing with it and applying our proposed new offence to both sectors equally.

By its very nature, the information necessary to obtain a successful prosecution for corruption is surrounded in secrecy. This causes two problems. The first is whether the investigatory powers of the police should be extended. In cases of serious fraud, difficulties arising from the secrecy of the activity involved have been resolved by granting extensive powers to the Serious Fraud Office. We, therefore, consider whether similar powers should be made available to the police for the investigation of all corruption offences. We are particularly interested in finding out whether the present powers of the police impair the successful prosecution of defendants for corruption.

Secondly, we consider whether there should be any form of presumption that a payment was made corruptly. At present, such a presumption arises if money, gift or other consideration is given to an employee of the Crown, a government department or public body in circumstances involving the allocation of contracts. We provisionally believe that the presumption is no longer necessary, especially in view of the fact that we now have provisions which enable fact-finders to draw inferences from a defendant's failure to testify or answer questions. We are very keen, however, to find from those with practical experience of prosecuting and defending if they consider the presumption still to be necessary.

We also considered whether entrapment in the form of an intention to expose somebody else's corruption should be a defence. To some, it might seem unjust to impose liability on someone who, although in the short term is encouraging corrupt behaviour, has the long-term goal to prevent it. The contrary view is that people should not take the law into their own hands, but should report their suspicions of corruption to the police or some other suitable authority. We are undecided on this point.

As usual, the Law Commission is very anxious to receive as many views as possible. Such views will be of vital importance in determining future policy. Because of the urgency of the project, all responses must be received by June 30.

The author is the Law Commissioner with responsibility for criminal law.



STEPHEN SILBER, QC

First across the line

AS Mr Mulligan romped home in the Cheltenham Gold Cup last week, Tony Williams was winning a two-horse race to become the next managing partner at the City law firm Clifford Chance, one of the world's biggest.

In a hotly contested election, two candidates, Ashley Booker and Rodney Short, were eliminated in the first ballot. But no one candidate achieved a clear majority and a second ballot was necessary to decide between Mr Williams, head of the firm's Moscow office, and Peter Charlton, head of the corporate department. The firm's marketing department, ever cautious, hedged its bets to the very end. Even when there were only two candidates left in the race, it still waited until the final result was known before calling in the photographer, flying Mr Williams in from Moscow late last Friday for the shoot.

Mr Williams will take up the position from January 1, 1998 when Geoffrey Howe stands down after four consecutive terms in office to go back into practice.

INNS AND OUTS

A Scott inquiry

HE MAY have led the arms-to-Iraq inquiry, and he may now be Vice-Chancellor, but Sir Richard Scott still appears to be trailing behind his namesake, Sir Nicholas Scott.

the deselected Tory MP, in the public popularity stakes.

Sir Richard was the special guest at the launch of the Chancery Bar Association directory at Lincoln's Inn last week.

He told the gathering that



Running for Red Nose Day: Freshfields staff

IS Slaughter & May the most po-faced law firm in the City? While the rest of the top ten City firms took up the challenge of Comic Relief's Dressing Down Day last Friday, Slaughter & May sent a memo around forbidding anyone from turning up in anything other than a suit. Meanwhile, Freshfields entered more than 100 staff in the City Fun Run and brave partners volunteered to be put into the stocks.

while bicycling to the do, he was confronted by another cyclist who had been eyeing him curiously while they were both stopped at a red light. "Aren't you," he had finally asked, "Sir Nicholas Scott?"

Planning seminar HIS HONOUR George Dobry, QC, *eminentiae grise* in the world of planning law, has organised the first seminar on advocacy in planning inquiries at the Inner Temple on March 22 together with 4 Breems' Buildings Chambers.

The one-day event includes top-level speakers such as David Hanchett, principal inspector from the Department of the Environment, Professor Malcolm Grant, department of land economy from Cambridge, and Garry Hart, senior planning partner at Herbert Smith.

"Mr Dobry said: 'This is a new and special event in the Bar education and training programme. Planning litigation is on the increase and junior barristers — in any field of law, because it has relevance for tribunal and other work — should be prepared to advise on and take part in planning inquiries.'"

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The successful candidate will be at ease with technical and engineering matters, be capable of quickly gaining a thorough understanding of motorsport technology, possess previous construction and property experience and have an active interest in motorsports.

To discuss this opportunity in total confidence, please telephone Gill Newman BA (Hons) at PSD Reuter Simkin on 0171-405 4161, quoting reference 35838.

Alternatively write to her at:

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London EC4A 3DF
Fax: 0171 242 1261
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PSD



LONDON OPPORTUNITIES

EMPLOYMENT TO £100,000
City firm which has committed considerable levels of resource to developing a name in the employment law sector, now seeks a further partner to spearhead the next stage of its growth. You will have expertise in all aspects of employment law, a natural affinity for practice development and an impressive record of managing and motivating junior staff. You will be the latest in a long line of highly successful lateral hires. (Ref:9361)

PROPERTY TO £60,000
If you are a talented, self-motivated property lawyer with at least 3 years' good quality ppe and feel the need to get out of the rat race at your current firm, this City firm, which has achieved significant prominence despite its relatively small size, could well suit you. You will need the flexibility to handle the full gamut of property instructions as lead assistant. Structure of department means there are excellent prospects. (Ref:9361)

GENERAL BANKING TO £45,000 ++
Rare generalist banking role in a well known European bank with a close-knit central legal function. They seek a mainstream banking lawyer with 3-4 years' experience from either a medium to large law firm or another bank. Your work will include single facility and syndicated lending and full range of corporate lending work. Well managed legal department, ensuring 'reasonable' hours and good prospects for career progression. (Ref:9320)

DERIVATIVES DOCUMENTATION £40,000 ++
Medium-sized US bank with a substantial operation in the UK seeks a senior capital markets negotiator (either qualified or not) for its established team. Sole responsibility for structured derivative documentation, working very closely with the traders and enjoying a very high level of responsibility. You will also deal with repos and securities issues. Front office role requiring confidence and good commercial acumen. (Ref:9382)

PROPERTY LITIGATION TO £41,000
Property litigator at the 2-3 year level sought by progressive Central London firm where market share in this area is growing fast. The recent introduction of a significant new client base in the retail sector means there will be even more spin-off for this department, which currently comprises one partner and two assistants. Salaries will be right at the top of the London range. (Ref:9497)

For further information in complete confidence on these and the many other private practice vacancies registered with us, please contact Andrew Caulfield, Yasmin Phillips or Yvonne Smyth (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-377 0510 (01483-828110 evenings/weekends). If you are interested in in-house vacancies please contact Lisa Hicks on 0171-377 0510 (0171-735 5548 evenings/weekends). Alternatively write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail andrew@zmb.co.uk

CONSTRUCTION TO £75,000
The construction and engineering practice at this firm is enjoying an unprecedented influx of new work including a substantial amount of high profile litigation. Its London office currently has vacancies for talented construction lawyers at junior and senior assistant solicitor level. Successful candidates will have demonstrable litigation skills (not necessarily in this area) and must be used to handling large scale disputes, often with an international flavour. (Ref:9775)

CORPORATE TO £60,000
Manifestly successful, highly profitable City practice enjoys a well earned reputation for the excellence of its Corporate Department and now seeks further ambitious, able 1-5 year qualified lawyers. Varied client base ranges from entrepreneurs to listed clients and financial institutions. High level of client contact is encouraged. The firm has a reputation for fast tracking candidates of partnership calibre. (Ref:4618)

NO CAPITAL MARKETS TO £35,000
Leading UK investment bank seeks recently qualified banking lawyer to work as part of core capital markets team. With particular responsibility for funding, documentation, you will be given a large degree of autonomy whilst receiving excellent training. Exceptional opportunity to earn far more than your contemporaries in private practice. Stable group which pays close attention to the career development of its lawyers. (Ref:9255)

LITIGATION TO £36,000
National firm with one of the most successful litigation practices nationwide seeks a dynamic 1-2 year qualified litigator for its London office. Challenging mix of disputes, which will appeal to a junior lawyer perhaps feeling undervalued or locked into one large case at higher cost firm. Prerequisites are a good working knowledge of practice and procedure and natural interpersonal skills. (Ref:9323)

THEATRE - CENTRAL LONDON £20,000
Our Client is at the heart of the theatre industry in Europe. It has a legal team which advises on all issues affecting the sector ranging from employment law to breach of contract and IP. Will suit either a junior solicitor with a real interest in the theatre or someone more senior seeking an alternative career path, prepared to work at the above salary due to the unusual nature of the job and regular hours. (Ref:9385)

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Beware abuse of power

Unless carefully thought out, attempts to deal with attacks on children can lead to further problems, says Mark Stephens

We live in a time of appalling hypocrisy. Society's attitude to children is no different from that held up for didactic derision in Charles Kingsley's *The Water Babies*.

An atrocity such as that which stole the lives of 16 children in Dunblane prompts mass mourning and calls for ethical and legislative change. But at the same time we allow children to go home, unafraid, uneducated, brutalised, abused and prostituted.

Nonetheless, there is huge current concern about organised child abuse. The legal profession and the media should work in harmony to afford protection — and not just to the child survivors, but to perpetrators and anyone else involved. The problem is that protection tends to be confused with ignorance.

I realise that children should be our prime concern here, but it is not only their protection with which the legal profession and the media should be concerned. To divide children from the remainder of society, to voice concern for them alone and to legislate solely for victims is to fail to deal with the true situation.

The media view their role as being investigative and revelatory for the public good. They can uncover abuse, warn the public of potential and actual danger and induce justice to be done. Problems arise when the desire for justice becomes a desire for revenge; the need for protection overriding a need to punish. The need to tell a story may also jeopardise motive and security.

Practices such as financial reward for witnesses, details of scandal and allegations of malpractice or criminal activity never benefit the true course of justice; however, in cases such as those of current concern, the repercussions of such activities are lethal to justice and to the individual.

Coverage of child abuse is not always beneficial to the survivors. The press argues that survivors have stories to tell, that it wishes to raise public awareness and that

their voices have been silenced for too long.

One's immediate instinct is to agree; exposure marks an end to ostracism and a break in the cycle of taboo. But the psychological trauma and often-justified paranoia of survivors can mean that media coverage is potentially more dangerous in such cases than in other instances of criminal activity.

Take the family of Chris Johns of North Wales: three of five children abused, two dead from unnatural causes and two in permanent hiding — directly or indirectly a result of their time in care.

Such failures highlight also the potential risks publicity can bring.

People must be able to believe that those offering help do so for honourable reasons

In their paper *Child Exploitation and the Media — Over-Exposure or Cover-up*, Mike Jemson, executive director of PressWise, a media ethics body, and David Niven, the chairman of Action on Child Exploitation, point out that neither privacy and secrecy nor over-exposure should be confused with freedom of expression.

Media representatives must treat the information and allegations of their interviewees with integrity. The subjects are being asked, and perhaps, unknowingly agreeing to relieve the most appalling and traumatic experiences of their lives. Equally, too much of a "softly softly" approach is as dangerous as it is ignorant, which helps no one.

Legislation and regulation do exist, but in a piecemeal fashion. And the proposed paedophile register under the Home Secretary's Sex Offenders Bill is no kind of solution. This is aimed at protecting children from paedophiles located

in their neighbourhood, but even this apparently admirable motive may be faulty. The easy availability of the names and addresses of convicted paedophiles, charged sex offenders and, even in the instance of "gross indecency", consensual adult homosexuals, will provide the media with unchecked access to the subjects for stories, exposes and ultimately publicised vitriol.

There is also the possibility that a paedophile register would serve as an abusers' directory. The task of informing vulnerable members of a neighbourhood of the presence of offenders in the locality will be in the hands of the police. The proposal fails to consider the often interdependent relationship of police and media.

Checks on information imposed by the judiciary in court proceedings and the current North Wales child abuse tribunal could not be used in conjunction with a register.

In America it is the courts that are putting the brakes on what has come to be called "Megan's Law" — introduced after a seven-year-old's abuse and murder by a paedophile, and providing police with extensive notification powers — highlighting the problems of allowing a mother's grief-fueled campaign to become legislation. Megan's Law inspired the apparently unqualified support of America's political heavyweights and the response to the Home Secretary's proposed register has been much the same.

The combined forces of politicians and parents make it a surefire winner: parents have more than children; they have votes. A vote is a small price to pay for the apparent promise of your children's safety.

Last month saw the launch of *A Case for Balance*, a video endorsed by the Judicial Studies Board, giving guidelines on the management of child witness cases and the need to minimise the burden and distress of children in court proceedings. Similarly sensible proposals are necessary for the regulation of the coverage of such cases by the media. Currently, it is the media themselves that have



The damage done: now how should society proceed?

taken the initiative in instigating change.

A Forum on Children Exploitation and the Media was held last week by the charity Action on Child Exploitation and PressWise. The aim was to develop "common guidelines for future good practice that will improve public understanding of the issues, and assist efforts to eradicate child abuse".

I do not believe, however, that it is correct for the media to take on the responsibility for either security of the vulnerable or the control of "offenders". For the tabloids in particular, the need to sell copies will always prevent their practising what they preach.

With the correct regulation, the

press can act as a noticeboard to warn the public of danger. And we may hope that the media can distinguish confidentiality from secrecy, freedom of expression from over-exposure and protection from ignorance. But neither the safety of children nor the monitoring of sex abusers should be in the hands of people with no training in the caring, social or legal services.

The public, and particularly those being abused, must be able to believe that those offering assistance are doing so for honourable reasons, and have the resources to fulfil their promises. Comprehensive support systems must be in place — and not only for the abused.

● The author is a solicitor specialising in media law.

A jury system under question

Tunku Varadarajan on the case that raises the spectre of Franco's justice

Spain's fragile jury system has come under withering attack after a jury in San Sebastián found a Basque radical not guilty of the murder of two policemen even after he confessed in court to taking "deliberate aim" and shooting the men with a hunting rifle.

The all-Basque jury decided that the accused, who had links with the terrorist group Eta, "was not fully in control of himself" at the time of the shooting. The families of the dead men have denounced the jury for acquitting the killer "out of fear of Eta" and the Spanish Minister of Justice has undertaken to examine ways in which there is no repetition.

The trial of Mikel Otegi, the accused, was held against a background of such intimidation that many observers saw the case as a trial of the jury system itself. The system was reintroduced for the first time last May, after its abolition by General Franco in 1936. But Señor Otegi's acquittal will confirm the view of many that the system is unsuited to the trial of politically charged cases in the Basque country.

Finding nine willing jurors — the number required by Spanish law — proved arduous for the presiding judge Basques fought shy of sitting on the case for fear of terrorist reprisals. Explicit warnings are given regularly to the public by Eta to shun jury service whenever Basque nationalists are on trial.

Of the initial pool of 36 potential jurors in the Otegi case, all chosen at random, only eight raised no preliminary personal objections to participation. The rest offered a range of excuses to get off the politically awkward hook. Pressures of work, family duty, stress and illness were cited by many as reasons not to serve.

Others claimed that they knew the accused personally, thus making it impossible for them to impart an objective judgment. A handful also declined to serve on the jury for straightforward political rea-

sons, stating that because the law laid down that jurors should be "Spanish", they, as Basques, were not required to serve.

The court, however, overruled most objections, finally settling on a jury comprising eight women and one man. Their task was to decide whether Señor Otegi murdered two policemen at his farm in Itassondo, near San Sebastián, in December 1995. The accused — a militant member of Jarrai, a radical Basque organisation linked to Eta — claimed he killed the two men in self-defence. Witnesses, however, saw him getting drunk on the night in question, and scuffling earlier with policemen in a local tavern.

The Spanish Ministry of Justice has announced that it will appeal against the jury's decision. Legal experts predict that the case will eventually reach the Supreme Court in Madrid.

The case has led to pressure in Spain for the abolition of the jury system. Trial by jury, one of the first institutions to fall victim to the Spanish Civil War, sits awkwardly in the country's Roman-Napoleonic legal system, traditionally dominated by magistrates. Though it seemed to have worked well since its restoration last year, the Otegi trial was the first with such an obviously political dimension — and such an explosive outcome.

Yet these proposals for change, so soon after the system's reintroduction last May, have also provoked criticism. In an editorial last week, the Madrid daily *El País* cautioned against an over-hasty rush to legislate in the face of one unsavoury verdict. The newspaper said: "One has to face the fact that very little time has elapsed since the jury system's return to Spain. Not enough time has passed for a jury tradition to emerge. It is only when such a tradition emerges that we will cease to question the validity of the system on the basis of one concrete verdict. We must allow the institution time to settle down."

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SHIPPING LITIGATION - IN-HOUSE

4 to 10 Years Qualified to £50,000
Leading P&I Club is seeking a high calibre shipping litigator with a minimum of five years post qualification experience. Unusually, work will involve a wide range of both P&I and F&O claims encountered by ship owner members. Potential to undertake management responsibilities in the future. Candidates should be from a recognised shipping firm with good academics and energy, which will ensure board membership within a short time. Ref: T10999J.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL - IN-HOUSE

5 Years+ Qualified £££££
Leading West End media organisation is seeking a lawyer to advise on a wide range of corporate issues, including company formation and dissolution, joint ventures, reorganisations and mainstream corporate transactions. Candidates must have at least four years post qualification experience at a City or provincial firm and a second language would be useful. The role will also involve some travel. Ref: T11628J.

CORPORATE FINANCE

1 to 4 Years Qualified Sydney
A move "down under" offers both increased quality of life and consistently high quality work. One of the leading firms of over 150 partners is seeking additional corporate lawyers. Applicants must have an excellent academic background and have City experience. The firm can sponsor visa applications for non Australian/New Zealand candidates. Ref: T11198J.D.

INFORMATION OFFICER

3 Years+ Qualified £££££
We are currently handling a large number of instructions for information officer roles in the Corporate, Commercial, Litigation, Property, EC/Competition and Tax departments of major firms. These roles will require recent experience together with strong technical skills. Aspects of the role include training and development, research, keeping fee-earners up to date with legal developments. Computer literacy a strong advantage. Salaries paid are very competitive and consistently on a level with fee-earners. Ref: T1a10ffice.E

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

4 Years to Partner Level to £150,000
A top twenty City firm is currently recruiting either a senior assistant or an additional partner into its Property Department which covers all areas of property work from secured lending to development. This role will suit an ambitious solicitor who has had considerable client development experience. The level of entry will be determined by the strength of client following. Applicants with property developer clients would be at an advantage. Ref: T11616J.D.

CORPORATE TAX

5 Years+ Qualified to £250,000
A New York based MNP with an established profile in Project Finance, Mergers and Acquisitions and Capital Markets is looking for a tax lawyer at partner level to handle multinational tax advantaged financings and structures and leading transactions. The London office has now 15 fee-earners, predominantly UK qualified but aims to double this by the end of this year. Candidates must be on partnership track with the ability to market undeveloped clients. Ref: T11586.E

EU/COMPETITION

2 to 4 Years Qualified to £58,000
Major international commercial law firm with offices worldwide is now seeking an additional EU lawyer to join its already very strong and established team. A high level of autonomy is given to those who want it but guidance and excellent technical support systems are always available. The broadest range of EU/Competition work is handled. Candidates should have practical experience in private practice as opposed to a "stage". Ref: T10237.G

QUALIFYING IN 1997?

If you are qualifying in 1997 and would like an informal discussion on your career prospects and likely job opportunities in private practice, industry or in commerce, then you need to give us a call. Projections by the major City firms for requirements in the key practice areas of Corporate, Commercial, Property, Intellectual Property and Banking are very encouraging and candidates wishing to make an informed choice regarding their careers should call us now for an appointment.

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Please contact Gavin Crocker, Alison Barrett or Dominique W Pengelly (all qualified lawyers) on 0171 417 1400 or write to them at the London office for more information in complete confidence.
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Using Headhunters

A burning issue among the medium and large commercial practices with talented lawyers is how to deal with the threat of poaching. Can anything be done?

One of the national firms has developed an interesting two-part strategy for responding to headhunters' approaches. Partners are required to take advantage of these approaches by attending interviews with competitor firms and finding out as much as they can. Since resources are limited in this way lead to be at a senior level, interviews are not surprised when the partner probes deeply into the strategy and future prospects of the prospective employer. Questions which would normally be regarded as intrusive are acceptable in these circumstances. By the second or third interview, a wealth of detailed information can be extracted.

There is a risk that the partner may actually be lured away. As a policy, therefore, cooperation with headhunters is only feasible for firms with reasonably high profits and good morale. If word gets out, the headhunters will wise up to this policy and the number of approaches will decline. The firm will begin to lose a valuable source of information. Partners will no longer have the opportunity to see what's going on elsewhere. Eventually, the headhunters may lose interest in the firm altogether.

This, of course, is the second part of the strategy.

Michael Chambers

INDUSTRY

Sonya Rayner, Morwenna Lewis

Oil Lawyer: London

Sol or Barr with approx 5 yrs' ppe to join energy company. Expere of the oil and gas industry or a related industry is essential. Attractive remuneration.

Commercial Property: North East

Opportunity for Solicitor or Barrister with 2-3 years' ppe in commercial property to join international services company. Ideal as a first move into industry.

Retail: North

Well known consumer goods/retail plc requires Sol with min 2 yrs' expere for ast co sec/solicitor role. Work includes advising on trade descriptions/consumer credit issues, managing insurance and secretarial matters. French an advantage.

PRIVATE PRACTICE

SOUTH: Helen Mills, Alison Shepherd, Noel Murray

LONDON: David Woolfson, Simon Anderson NORTH: Suki Bahra

Partnership Positions

We have been assisting partners seeking a career move for over 20 years now and are regularly placing several partners each month.

Corporate and Banking: City

Leading New York practice, in first tier by quality not simply size, offers 1-4 year qualified solrs broad transnational caseload. New York salaries.

Commercial Property Partner: City

Leading medium-sized firm with institutional clientele has specific position for senior solicitor with entrepreneurial/developer expere and connections.

Private Client: Central London

We have a large number of positions with top quality private client practices in the City and Holborn. 1-5 year qualified solitors sought. To £50,000.

Pensions Litigation: City

High profile international firm seeks 1-3 year qualified litigator with some experience of pensions litigation. Demanding work, offering generous package.

Plot Sales Manager: Home Counties
Well est development seeks property lawyer with expere of working either in-house or in private practice for similar organisations. Must be used to working to tight deadlines.

Corporate/Commercial: North East
Sol/Barr with min 3 years' ppe req'd to join expanding int'l telecoms co. Role will involve general commercial work including EU competition. Possibilities for overseas travel.

Corporate/Secretarial: London
Int'l industrial group needs solr min 5 yrs' expere for comms/secretarial role. Emphasis on mergers and acquisitions and commercial contracts work.

Insolvency: City

Highly regarded City litigation firm seeks senior insolvency lawyer (4-7 years) with strong technical ability and proven client skills.

Insurance Litigation: City
Senior insurance litigator, at or near partner level, sought by this major City firm to assist in ambitious strategic client development plans.

IP Litigation: WC2

Large firm with leading IP practice seeks senior assistant (4-8 years) to handle both hard and soft IP. Superb client base and leading edge work.

Insurance/Prof Indemnity: Hants
Major South Coast practice require ambitious 1-3 year PQE commercial litigator to handle full caseload of professional indemnity.

Commercial Property: Manchester
0-3 year qualified commercial property solicitor sought by leading firm to handle a range of high quality work for major clients. Competitive salary offered.

Shell International and Shell U.K. Limited



Key roles in the front-line of the International Business World

Operating in more than 120 countries and with a global turnover exceeding £95 billion, The Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Companies is one of the largest commercial organisations in the world. Its legal departments provide crucial advice on all aspects of its oil, gas and chemical businesses world-wide, including joint ventures, international and domestic sales, operating agreements, shipping and transport, financing, competition matters, acquisitions and disposals.

Due largely to an ever increasing demand for in-house legal advice, a number of opportunities have arisen within the legal departments of Shell International and Shell UK Limited. Applications are invited from lawyers with strong academic records who have experience with a leading law firm or company and are used to working to the highest professional standards.

The Company/Commercial positions would suit ambitious lawyers with the necessary breadth of experience to advise internal clients on a broad range of company & commercial law and play key roles within multi-disciplinary teams. Candidates will enjoy a high degree of autonomy whilst working with internal clients on a range of major transactions. First rate analytical and legal skills are our client's priority. Previous experience in the Oil & Gas sector is not necessary.

The Competition position offers a unique opportunity for a specialist seeking more commercial involvement and wishing to handle a top quality workload which will focus upon international anti-trust including merger and joint venture analysis and Article 85/86 issues.

The role of lawyers in Shell is both a challenging and demanding one. Teamwork, backbone, communication and negotiation skills together with the ability to understand a variety of businesses are all important ingredients.

Given the global nature of the business, a willingness to travel, sometimes at short notice, is required. A competitive salary plus a range of benefits are offered.

Shell is committed to providing equal opportunities to everyone and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

GG
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For further details in complete confidence, please contact our retained consultant, Struan Hall on 0171 430 1711 or write to him at Graham Gill & Young, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN (Fax 0171 831 4186). This assignment is being handled exclusively by Graham Gill & Young and all direct or third party applications will be forwarded to them.

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(Source: Legal 500, 1996)

Unlike many of our competitors Simmons & Simmons promote its highly valued private capital group. Supporting the key decision makers is as important to Simmons & Simmons as supporting the companies themselves.

We are seeking lawyers to work in our group. You can expect lots of first rate work, high levels of client contact and responsibility, an opportunity to play an active part in the management and development of the group, a relaxed and informal working environment and remuneration at top city rates.

You should have at least 2-4 year's experience in private client trust and tax work. You must have a proven ability to provide practical and innovative solutions, a desire to become thoroughly conversant with private capital taxation and to be closely involved with complex international trust matters.

If you would be interested in this vacancy, please write enclosing your CV, to Anita Tovell, Simmons & Simmons, 21 Wilson Street, London EC2M 2TX.

An international law firm

London Paris Brussels Lisbon Milan Abu Dhabi Hong Kong Shanghai New York

SIMMONS & SIMMONS

Environmental Know-How Lawyer

"In Environmental Law, the firm is at the top of Legal 500's table, and the head of the team, Stephen Tromans is generally regarded as one of the foremost individuals even within that select bunch"

(Source: In Brief, February 1997)

We are seeking a full time Know-How lawyer to work with our environmental team headed up by Stephen Tromans. We can offer you:

- research into environmental issues at the forefront of the law
- a key role in a close and informal team with top quality work
- the opportunity to help organise and drive forward our Know-How
- remuneration at top city rates.

You should have either at least a year's experience in environmental law or an LL.M in this subject. We may, as part of the interview process, ask you to produce evidence of your research or writing ability.

If you want to be part of a fast moving and energetic group, please write enclosing your CV, to Anita Tovell, Simmons & Simmons, 21 Wilson Street, London EC2M 2TX.

An international law firm

London Paris Brussels Lisbon Milan Abu Dhabi Hong Kong Shanghai New York

Currency and Commodities

International Investment Bank

Goldman Sachs' reputation as one of the world's leading investment banking and securities firms is built upon the skills, creativity and dedication of our people. It is our goal to recruit the best person for every job.

Our Currency and Commodities Division, J. Aron, primarily focuses on trading foreign exchange, precious and base metals, energy, soft commodities, commodity options and other products throughout Europe and the Middle East. Due to the continuing expansion of the Division in London, we now seek to make two key appointments in London:

Compliance Risk Manager

The first will be for a senior professional to take over the management of compliance on the trading floor in London. The primary aim of the role will be to articulate and to ensure compliance with all laws and regulations governing the J. Aron business and to manage reputational risk.

Reporting directly to the Global Head of J. Aron Compliance in our New York headquarters, your principal day-to-day responsibilities will include continuing to develop the high-profile compliance presence on the trading floor and enhancing risk control policies and procedures. You will be responsible for training and assisting sales, trading and operational professionals in identifying compliance issues and complying with a range of legislative, regulatory and internal risk-management procedures that impact this business internationally, as well as advising senior management on compliance and control risk. The role is broad and dynamic and will be tailored to your individual skills.

Ideally, you will be a lawyer with 3-8 years' legal or compliance experience gained within a respected commercial or financial institution or regulator. Whilst an in-depth knowledge of

regulatory and compliance environments would be advantageous, personal qualities and attributes are more significant.

Commodities/Derivatives Lawyer

The second role will be for a lawyer to advise on the legal issues arising from J. Aron's business in Europe and the Middle East. You will report to the firm's General Counsel and work with the Division's current legal adviser. Your principal day-to-day activities will involve advising on and documenting transactions including derivatives, overseeing the negotiation of master agreements, and project work, as well as advising other professionals and senior management within the Division on a full range of legal issues.

Candidates with 4-6 years general commercial or finance experience gained in a leading law firm or who have had relevant experience within a financial or other institution are preferred. Knowledge and experience of the commodities industry would be advantageous but not essential. A strong legal background and proven analytic and drafting skills are critical. As with the compliance role, personal qualities and attributes are significant.

Compensation, in each case, will be competitive and will reflect our normal investment banking practice.

Please apply in writing, enclosing a covering letter and full curriculum vitae, to our Managing Consultant, Geraldine Hetherington, In-House Legal, 17 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4QH. Tel: 0171 405 0151. Fax: 0171 831 6498.



BARRISTER MEMBER OF THE LORD CHANCELLOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LEGAL EDUCATION AND CONDUCT

The Committee advises professional bodies of legal services upon legal education and conduct, and has a central role in the arrangements for deciding who should have rights of audience in the courts and who should have rights to conduct litigation.

The Committee is chaired by Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead and has sixteen members. The Lord Chancellor is seeking to appoint a practising barrister member.

The appointment is currently expected to run from 1 April 1997 for three years initially, with the possibility of one further appointment of three years. Membership of the Committee involves attending committee meetings usually on two Mondays a month in central London and other meetings on two or three days a month, as required. A fee is paid for each day worked, plus travelling expenses.

This vacancy has been previously advertised. Those who have already applied need not re-apply. Further details including a job description and an application form can be obtained from Julia Gerrard, Legal Services Development, Lord Chancellor's Department, Selborne House, 54/60 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QW. The last day that requests for application forms will be accepted is Friday 4 April 1997 and the closing date for completed applications is Friday 11 April 1997.

The Lord Chancellor's Department is committed to providing equality of opportunity for all applicants and to the principles of public appointments based on merit with independent assessment, openness and transparency of process.

CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITIES.



Are you willing to push yourself to be #1? NIKE needs two high-caliber legal professionals to join our European Headquarters, located in Hilversum.

We're looking for a Sports Lawyer with at least three years' experience in intellectual property. Show us a background in sports law, and we're interested. We also need a General Commercial Lawyer who has three years of experience in a quality-driven, business-oriented legal practice. Both positions require excellent academic credentials and outstanding analytical, drafting, negotiation, and English language skills.

Interested? Mail or fax your CV within two weeks to: Craig Robertson, Human Resources, NIKE European Operations Netherlands B.V., Marathon 7, 1213 PD Hilversum, The Netherlands. Fax: +31 35 626 63 06. Attn: T 18/03/97.

PROPERTY PARTNERS ASSISTANT

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KEY ROLE & PROSPECTS

Our client is a nine partner commercial practice with attractive contemporary offices in the heart of Hampstead. The practice, which benefits from excellent hi-tech backup systems, is profitable, friendly and very highly regarded, especially for its company commercial and commercial property work.

As a result of recent and sustainable growth, the Partners seek to recruit a Property Assistant to work with two young partners handling a full range of commercial property and heavyweight residential conveyancing matters for sophisticated and commercially demanding clients.

Applications are sought from Conveyancers with the equivalent of between one and three year's post qualification experience, who would relish the opportunity of working in a close-knit, niche, commercial practice where performance is well rewarded, at City scales and career prospects are excellent.

Applications will be treated in the strictest confidence and will not be passed to our client without consent. Write with your CV to Piers Williams at Macdonald & Company, 8 Hanover Street, London W1R 9HF. Tel 0171 290 2690 Fax 0171 290 2700 Evenings 01725 519309 E-Mail: 101767.3663@compuserve.com. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis.

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For further information in complete confidence, please contact Rebecca Errington or June Meslé (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6662 (0171-357 0912 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglas In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4PL. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394.



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For further information in complete confidence, please contact Dominique Graham or Sophie Brooks on 0171 430 1711, or write to them at Graham Gill & Young, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN. Fax: 0171 831 4186. This assignment is being handled exclusively by Graham Gill & Young. All direct and third party applications will be forwarded to them.



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An IP lawyer, 1-5 years qualified, to deal mainly with non-contentious IP, UK/EC competition law, trademark matters and IT contracts.

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EC/COMPETITION To £60,000
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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Seamus Hear, Jonathan Marsden or Adrian Fox (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-495 6062 (0171-403 5727 or 0171-226 4292 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.



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UK AND EUROPEAN REGULATORY AFFAIRS



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For further information in complete confidence please contact Lisa Hicks or Jonathan Brenner on 0171-377 0510 (0171-735 5548 evenings/weekends). Alternatively, write to us at ZMB, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. Email lisa@zmb.co.uk



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Applications in writing, including a full CV, should be sent to Kvaerner Construction Group Limited, Personnel Department, Maple Cross House, Denham Way, Maple Cross, Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 2SW and marked for the attention of Mrs Y. Lynn.

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For an application form and further particulars, contact Personnel on 0161 247 6403 quoting the appropriate reference. Closing date: 4 April 1997.

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For Civil Litigation position, 1-3 years PQE. Please send CV's to Gina Jones, Sammers & Co, 39 Dover Street, London W1X 3RB.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Broncos set to enlist Edwards

By Christopher Irvine

LONDON Broncos hope to complete the signing of Shaun Edwards from Wigan in time for him to make his debut at Warrington in the Super League on Friday. A board meeting at Central Park tonight is expected to approve the sale of the Great Britain scrum half for a nominal fee.

Wigan refused Edwards, 30, a free transfer request, but the club is apparently willing to suspend the two years left on his contract and release him to the Broncos for a modest payment. Edwards wants to leave Wigan after 14 years for personal reasons. He is now living in London, where his girlfriend is based, and she is expecting their first child.

Edwards would be the thirteenth international player to leave Wigan in 22 months. The proposed move will cost him an estimated pay cut of £100,000 over two years.

He had spoken of possible retirement if the club had carried out its intention of keeping him to his contract. However, in discussions with Jack Robinson, Edwards reminded his club chairman about his loyal service since he was signed at 17, in 1983, for £35,000, then a world record for a schoolboy.

After the capture last year of Martin Offiah, the Great Britain wing, from Wigan, the imminent signing of Edwards will represent another coup for the ambitious Broncos. There is still no better organiser in the English game. Outside the Wigan context, it would be interesting to see whether Edwards exerts the same influence.

Wigan look set to miss out to Sheffield Eagles on the signing of Tony Smith, the third-choice Great Britain scrum half, from Castleford. Wigan have also entered discussions with Warrington about the unsettled Iestyn Harris, the

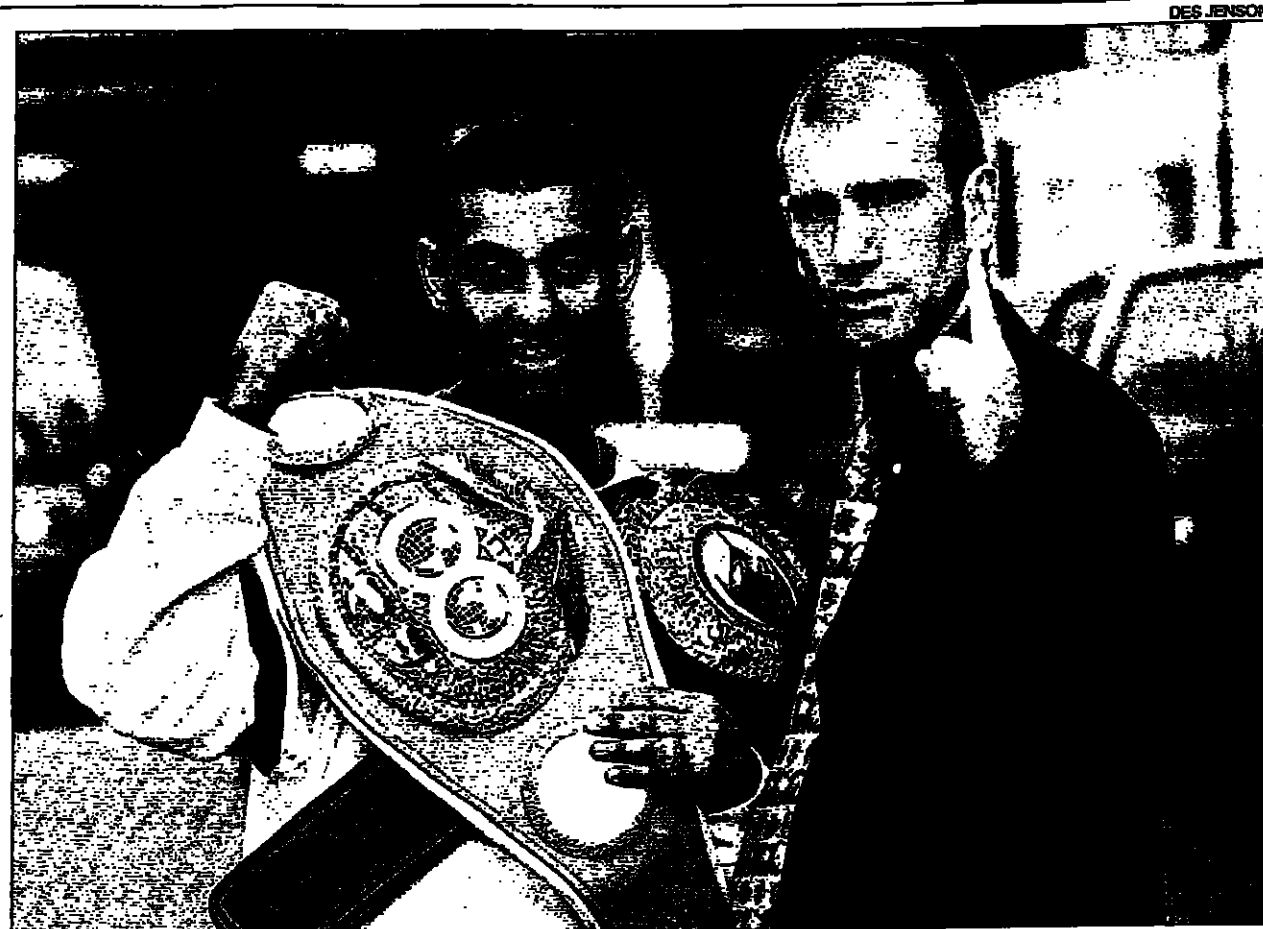
Wales and Britain back. His preference, though, is for St Helens, but he is at present suspended from Warrington for two days for playing in a football match without the club's permission.

Harris, listed at £1.35 million, withdrew from Warrington's match at Bradford last Friday with a calf injury. The repercussions of a 58-20 defeat at Oldham, and their Silk Cut Challenge Cup exit at the hands of Salford the previous week, were severe yesterday as Warrington gave free transfers to three internationals — Martin Dermott, who has played twice after joining from Wigan in the close season, Willie Swann and Mateaki Mafi.

John Smith, the Warrington chief executive, said: "We don't believe these players are up to Super League standard and we don't have time to wait. They will be allowed to find another club and we are not asking for a fee. We know we have problems, but this club will go forward. There will be more signings, but of players of the right calibre."

A total attendance of 55,000 for the first six Super League matches was 1,000 up on the first weekend of 1996 and represented the most popular start to a season for 24 years. All but one of the home clubs recorded crowd increases of between 15 per cent and 50 per cent on their average last year.

Maurice Lindsay, the Rugby Football League chief executive, was delighted by the opening-day statistics. "Following the healthy attendance patterns of the Challenge Cup, the opening round of Super League augurs well," Lindsay said. "The clubs have been working hard over the winter and that was clearly demonstrated by some tremendous play on the field and excellent organisation off it."



Hamed, left, strikes a belligerent pose alongside Hardy, who will challenge him for the WBO title in May

Hamed fails to duck Hardy's challenge

NASEEM HAMED has had to take a diversion on his route to the undisputed world featherweight title (Srikumar Sen writes). Instead of meeting Wilfredo Vasquez, the World Boxing Association (WBA) champion, on May 3, Hamed has to defend his World Boxing Organisation (WBO) title against Billy Hardy, the European champion from Sunderland, on that date at the Nynex Arena in Manchester.

Frank Warren, Hamed's promoter, said that the bout had been forced on the Sheffield man by the WBO and the

media. Warren wanted Hamed to attempt to become undisputed champion as soon as possible but Hardy, the No 1 contender, could not be side-stepped.

The WBO tried initially to help out Warren by attempting to get Hardy to have an eliminator while Vasquez went ahead with his bout with Vasquez. But Tommy Gilmore, Hardy's manager, having waited 12 months for the title bout, put the matter into the hands of his solicitors.

"We still haven't heard from the WBO," Gilmore said. "It was heading

for the courts. But then we got together with Frank Warren and made the fight happen. We got a good deal for Billy. The best payday of his career. I think Frank Warren is to be congratulated for saving the blushes of the WBO."

Hamed was typically dismissive of Hardy, who is 32 and past his best, and produced a one-sided shouting match at a London press conference. The champion promised to wipe out the Wearside boxer inside five rounds and Hardy promised to show his rival a few tricks he had picked up in 13 years of boxing.

ICE HOCKEY: WEAKENED STEELERS DISMISS BISON IN LOW-KEY ENCOUNTER

Advancing Eagles are grounded by Storm

WITH all the significant placings and semi-final pairings in the Superleague championship decided on Saturday, the two games played on Sunday were reduced to meaningless affairs (Norman de Mesquita writes).

Ayr Scottish Eagles, no doubt still recovering from the excitement of their 6-4 win over Newcastle Cobras the night before, were beaten 4-3

by Manchester Storm, which at least gave a 10,000 crowd in the Nynex Arena some compensation as the Storm broke their play-off duck. The game was penalty-free, which is the ice hockey equivalent of a football match without a foul, and indicates how seriously the players took it.

It was much the same story at Basingstoke, where Sheffield Steelers rested Rob

Wilson, their captain, and Jason Lafreniere, one of their leading forwards, and still beat the Bison 7-2, with each side earning only one penalty and body-checking notably absent.

The Great Britain Under-19 team won the gold medal in Pool C of the European junior championships in Romania at the weekend. Having beaten Estonia 8-0, Romania 5-2 and

Holland 3-1, they completed their programme with a 4-3 win over Latvia, the pre-tournament favourites. This means that they will compete in Pool B next year.

Perhaps the continuing success of the British youngsters will now encourage coaches in the domestic game to employ home-bred players, rather than pinning their hopes on expensive imports.

CRICKET

India fold after Sidhu reaches milestone

NAVJOT SIDHU became only the third India batsman to score a double-century against West Indies yesterday before his side was dismissed for 436 on the fourth day of the second Test at Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Sumit Joshi was the last man out for 24 after Anil Kumble, who had retired hurt on nine after being struck in the groin by a ball from Mervyn Dillon, the fast bowler, resumed his innings after lunch when India were 420 for nine.

Only Sumit Gavaskar and Dilip Sardesai had scored double-hundreds for India against West Indies. Sidhu's innings of 201 spanned more than 11 hours and included 19 fours and one six.

The luck that deserted the West Indies bowlers during the previous two days of the match suddenly returned. India were 367 for three overnight and, after Ganguly was dismissed by a well-taken, left-handed catch by Chanderpaul at cover off Franklyn Rose, West Indies seized their opportunity.

Curly Ambrose bowled Mohammad Azharuddin and Sidhu, before Dillon took three wickets in quick succession.

WEST INDIES: First Innings 236 (R C Holder 81; A R Kumble 5 for 104).

Second Innings

S L Campbell bow b Kumble 4

S C Prasad not out 19

S Chandrapaul not out 0

Extras (lb 6, nb 1) 7

Total (1 wkt) 30

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28 (S C Prasad 1-12); 2-37 (S L Campbell 1-11); 3-43 (S Chandrapaul 1-11); 4-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 5-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 6-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 7-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 8-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 9-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 10-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 11-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 12-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 13-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 14-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 15-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 16-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 17-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 18-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 19-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 20-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 21-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 22-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 23-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 24-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 25-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 26-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 27-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 28-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 29-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 30-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 31-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 32-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 33-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 34-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 35-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 36-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 37-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 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76-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 77-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 78-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 79-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 80-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 81-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 82-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 83-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 84-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 85-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 86-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 87-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 88-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 89-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 90-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 91-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 92-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 93-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 94-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 95-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 96-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 97-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 98-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 99-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 100-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 101-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 102-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 103-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 104-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 105-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 106-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 107-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 108-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 109-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 110-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 111-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 112-43 (S L Campbell 1-11); 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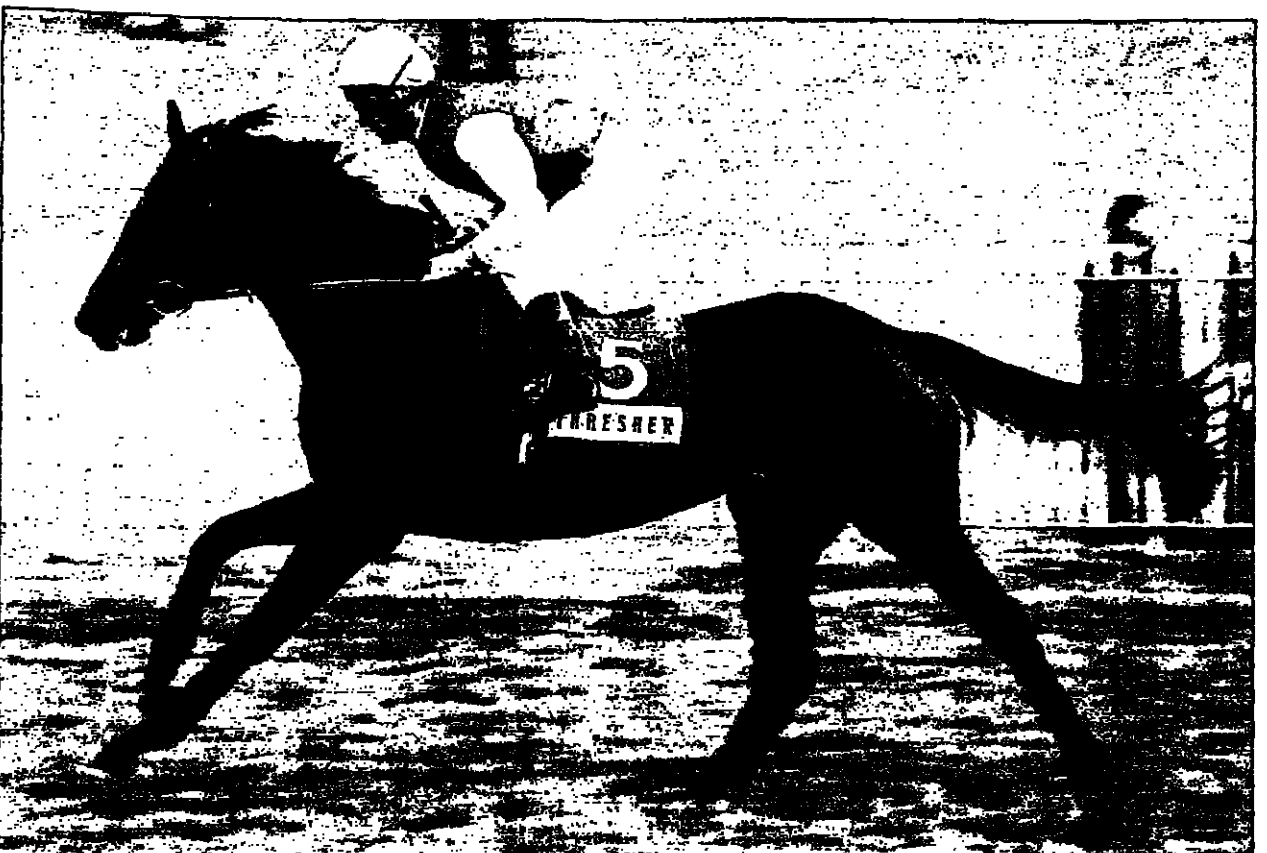
RACING: AMERICAN DUO DOMINATES EARLY BETTING FOR WORLD'S RICHEST RACE AT NAD AL SHEBA

Singspiel leads Britain's Dubai raid

By JULIAN MASCAT

A FIVE-STRONG British contingent, headed by the Japan Cup winner, Singspiel, was yesterday allocated places in the provisional field of 13 for the Dubai World Cup at Nad Al Sheba on Saturday week.

Piemensfirth, Even Top, Bijou D'Inde and Luso are on course to accompany Singspiel in the \$4 million event over ten furlongs. In an international cast, they will be opposed by three American-



Singspiel, last season's Japan Cup winner, heads a five-strong British challenge for the Dubai World Cup

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: SILVER THYNE
(4.50 Uttoxeter)
Next best: Red Branch
(2.00 Fontwell Park)

Thunder was in top form yesterday. He topped Golden Fleece (10.20) at Uttoxeter, where Woody Dane (7.1) also did well, and he was runner-up in the Al Sheba (16.1) and the Vase (16.1) at Market Rasen.

trained opponents, two from Dubai and one each from Australia, Japan and, most significantly, France, whose entry is the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner, Hefissio.

Bookmakers were quick to size up the contest and came down firmly in favour of the American challengers. William Hill installed Siphon, the 11-4 favourite, followed by 4-1 Sandpit, 5-1 Singspiel and Hefissio, 7-1 Formal Gold (US) and Kammarra (Dubai), 14-1 Piemensfirth and Key Of Luck (Dubai), 20-1 Even Top and

Juggler (Australia), and 33-1 Bijou D'Inde, Luso and Hokuto Vega (Japan).

Those odds undoubtedly reflect the fact that American-trained horses, led by Cigar, filled the first three places in the inaugural running 12 months ago. This year's trio is

not quite so formidable a unit, but the prospects for Britain on the dirt track were put in perspective by Singspiel's trainer, Michael Stoute.

"Singspiel is a top-class turf horse racing on a different surface, and we don't for a minute underestimate the difficulty of that," Stoute said. "The horse has been in Dubai since January 31 and has done some strong work. I am pleased with his condition, although there is no effective rehearsal for him racing against 12 opponents on sand for the first time."

The British quintet has all spent part of the winter acclimatising in Dubai. So, have Sorbie Tower and Needle Gun, who are to be aimed at the Dubai Duty Free Stakes, a \$500,000 consolation race for horses failing to make the big-race line-up. Such

selectivity in choosing the World Cup field has resulted in a high-quality cast: the average rating for the 13 candidates is 122. "That is slightly up on last year's running," Kevin Greely, Dubai's racing secretary, said. "It is a record average rating for any international event."

Bijou D'Inde has already tried his hand on the dirt surface, finishing a disappointing third, but connections are pressing ahead with the challenge. And the place of Hefissio, Europe's top-rated horse last season, has yet to be confirmed. His participation hinges on a gallop in Dubai on Friday after heavy rain postponed his intended workout on Sunday. However, Hefissio has pleased connections since he arrived in the Emirates six weeks ago and is expected to take his chance.

Of the duo trained in Dubai, Kammarra, ridden by Frankie Dettori, recently prevailed in a leg of the Maktoom Sporting Challenge, but Key Of Luck—so impressive in the Duty Free Stakes when posting a faster time than Cigar in the main event 12 months ago—ran below expectations in Bijou D'Inde's race ten days ago.

Closer to home, Norman Williamson is confident of riding at the Grand National meeting despite a heavy fall at Leopardstown on Sunday. The jockey, who was signed off for a mandatory seven days with concussion, suffered hand and facial injuries.

Easy for The Artful Rascal

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

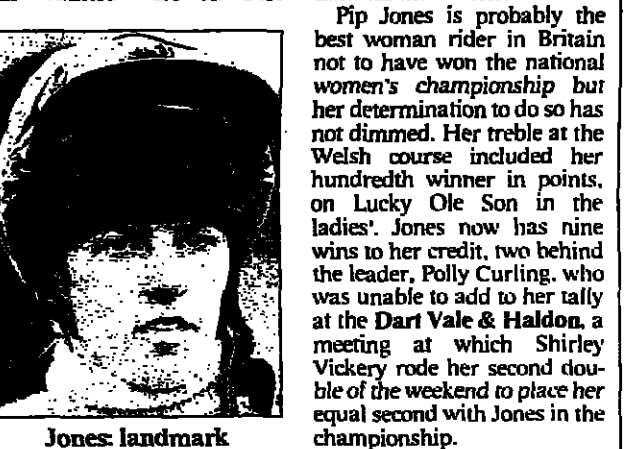
THE ARTFUL RASCAL, ridden by Nigel Bloom, duly won Britain's first 'prestige' point-to-point on Sunday. Their victory at the West-Strickham meeting netted owner-trainer Michael Kemp £240, double the usual amount for an open race and, while this was a four-mile contest, The Artful Rascal had an easy time in beating Stede Quarter and Annie Chilone.

Only nine went to post, the same number as last year, and, the winner apart, this was a prestige race in name only. It will be interesting to see whether the other six such events at courses across the country attract a better quality field.

The meeting did provide the crowd with the sight of one horse whose name should be on licensed trainers' shopping lists. Struggles Glory, a six-year-old owned, trained and ridden by David Robinson, 55, blitzed round in the day's

fastest time to record his third win of the season. He has yet to be tested and looks a fine prospect.

Jamie Jukes is back at the head of the national men's championship after his Saturday double at Larkhill was complemented by another at the Carmarthenshire. Both his winners were on Bert



Jones landmark

Lavis-trained horses, Radio Days and Hollow Sound.

Jukes has a total of 11 wins this season, one more than Tim Mitchell, who was last seen heading to his local pub, The Middle Inn, for a well-earned Foxhunting's celebration on Saturday night after he had ridden two winners at Larkhill that afternoon.

Pip Jones is probably the best woman rider in Britain not to have won the national women's championship but her determination to do so has not dimmed. Her treble at the Welsh course included her hundredth winner in points, on Lucky Ole Son in the ladies'. Jones now has nine wins to her credit, two behind the leader, Polly Curling, who was unable to add to her tally at the Dart Vale & Haldon. A meeting at which Shirley Vidy rode her second double of the weekend to place her equal second with Jones in the championship.

SUNDAY'S POINT-TO-POINT DETAILS

CARMARTHENS (Gorse) Hunt: 1. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 2. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 3. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 4. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 5. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 6. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 7. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 8. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 9. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 10. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1).

DART VALE & HALDON (Gorse) Hunt: 1. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 2. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 3. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 4. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 5. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 6. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 7. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 8. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 9. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 10. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1).

WEST-STRICTHAM (Gorse) Hunt: 1. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 2. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 3. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 4. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 5. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 6. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 7. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 8. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 9. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 10. Ozzie Jones (M. J. Preece, 3-1).

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Newcastle
Going: good to firm, good in places.
1.10.00 (m) 1. GOLDEN RIDGE (A. Thornton, 10-1), 2. Thunder (A. Thornton, 10-1), 3. Northern Square (F. Ryan, 14-1), 4. Northern Square (F. Ryan, 14-1), 5. Northern Square (F. Ryan, 14-1), 6. Northern Square (F. Ryan, 14-1), 7. Northern Square (F. Ryan, 14-1), 8. Northern Square (F. Ryan, 14-1), 9. Northern Square (F. Ryan, 14-1), 10. Northern Square (F. Ryan, 14-1).

Southwell
Going: standard.
1.10.00 (m) 1. NEEDLE MATCH (M. Ryan, 4-1), 2. Need (M. Ryan, 4-1), 3. Need (M. Ryan, 4-1), 4. Need (M. Ryan, 4-1), 5. Need (M. Ryan, 4-1), 6. Need (M. Ryan, 4-1), 7. Need (M. Ryan, 4-1), 8. Need (M. Ryan, 4-1), 9. Need (M. Ryan, 4-1), 10. Need (M. Ryan, 4-1).

Market Rasen
Going: good.
1.10.00 (m) 1. COUTHROD KID (2.10), 2. Couthrood Kid (2.10), 3. Couthrood Kid (2.10), 4. Couthrood Kid (2.10), 5. Couthrood Kid (2.10), 6. Couthrood Kid (2.10), 7. Couthrood Kid (2.10), 8. Couthrood Kid (2.10), 9. Couthrood Kid (2.10), 10. Couthrood Kid (2.10).

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

WORTHINGTON LINCOLN HANDICAP	
Doncaster, March 22	
GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES	
Almanac	1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100
Almanac	1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100
Hawthley Hill	1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100
Kuala Lipis	1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100
New Century	1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100
Grand Music	1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100
Roving Minstrel	1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100
Shannon Music	1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100
Sky Dome	1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100
Rockfeller	1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100
Stone Ridge	1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100
Kala Sunrise	1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100
High Premium	1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100

FONTWELL PARK

THUNDERER
2.00 Red Branch. 2.30 Rhythm and Blues. 3.00 Boleyn Baron. 3.30 Smuggler's Point. 4.00 Ten Cee Key. 4.30 Topanga.
Carl Evans: 4.00 Spitfire Jubilee.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

2.00 CERTAIN JUSTICE CHALLENGE CUP

NOVICES HURDLE CHASE (2.20, 2m 20y) (6 runners)
1. PEGGY STRIKES (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 2. Peggy Strikes (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 3. Peggy Strikes (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 4. Peggy Strikes (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 5. Peggy Strikes (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 6. Peggy Strikes (M. J. Preece, 3-1).

2.30 EBF NATIONAL HUNTERS HURDLE

(2.30, 2m 20y) (6 runners)
1. STRONG PALADIN (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 2. Strong Paladin (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 3. Strong Paladin (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 4. Strong Paladin (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 5. Strong Paladin (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 6. Strong Paladin (M. J. Preece, 3-1).

3.00 HEDDY SIMPSON MEMORIAL CHALLENGE

TROPHY MAIDEN CHASE (2.30, 2m 20y) (4 runners)
1. HEDDY SIMPSON (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 2. Heddy Simpson (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 3. Heddy Simpson (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 4. Heddy Simpson (M. J. Preece, 3-1).

3.30 GRAND SPECTOR HURDLE

(2.30, 2m 20y) (6 runners)
1. GRAND SPECTOR (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 2. Grand Spector (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 3. Grand Spector (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 4. Grand Spector (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 5. Grand Spector (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 6. Grand Spector (M. J. Preece, 3-1).

4.00 HORSE AND HOUND CHARLTON HUNT

CHALLENGE CUP HUNTERS HURDLE (2.30, 2m 20y) (4 runners)
1. HORSE AND HOUND (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 2. Horse and Hound (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 3. Horse and Hound (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 4. Horse and Hound (M. J. Preece, 3-1).

4.30 R.N.I. HANDICAP HURDLE

(2.30, 2m 20y) (7 runners)
1. R.N.I. HANDICAP (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 2. R.N.I. Handicap (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 3. R.N.I. Handicap (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 4. R.N.I. Handicap (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 5. R.N.I. Handicap (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 6. R.N.I. Handicap (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 7. R.N.I. Handicap (M. J. Preece, 3-1).

SEDGEFIELD

THUNDERER
2.10 Potted Abroad. 2.40 Arbury Street. 3.10 Twin Falls. 3.40 Le Denstan. 4.10 The Sharrow Legend. 4.40 Our Kite.
Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.10 HALF DECENT.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES)

2.10 STANLEY RACING SERIES NOVICES HURDLE

(2.20, 2m 20y) (12 runners)
1. STANLEY RACING (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 2. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 3. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 4. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 5. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 6. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 7. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 8. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 9. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 10. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 11. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 12. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1).

2.40 STANLEY CASINOS NOVICES HURDLE

(2.20, 2m 20y) (7 runners)
1. STANLEY CASINOS (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 2. Stanley Casinos (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 3. Stanley Casinos (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 4. Stanley Casinos (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 5. Stanley Casinos (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 6. Stanley Casinos (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 7. Stanley Casinos (M. J. Preece, 3-1).

3.10 ROBIN AND JOHN SIMPSON MEMORIAL

HANDICAP CHASE (2.25, 2m 20y) (4 runners)
1. ROBIN AND JOHN SIMPSON (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 2. Robin and John Simpson (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 3. Robin and John Simpson (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 4. Robin and John Simpson (M. J. Preece, 3-1).

3.40 MARY REVELEY RACING CLUB NOVICES CHASE

(2.25, 2m 20y) (4 runners)
1. MARY REVELEY (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 2. Mary Reveley (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 3. Mary Reveley (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 4. Mary Reveley (M. J. Preece, 3-1).

4.10 STANLEY RACING GOLDEN SERIES

HUNTERS HURDLE (2.25, 2m 20y) (12 runners)
1. STANLEY RACING (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 2. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 3. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 4. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 5. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 6. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 7. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 8. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 9. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 10. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 11. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 12. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1).

4.40 STANLEY RACING CLUB NOVICES CHASE

(2.25, 2m 20y) (4 runners)
1. STANLEY RACING (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 2. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 3. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 4. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1).

4.10 STANLEY RACING GOLDEN SERIES

HUNTERS HURDLE (2.25, 2m 20y) (12 runners)
1. STANLEY RACING (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 2. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 3. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 4. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 5. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 6. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 7. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 8. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 9. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 10. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 11. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 12. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1).

4.40 STANLEY RACING CLUB NOVICES CHASE

(2.25, 2m 20y) (4 runners)
1. STANLEY RACING (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 2. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 3. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 4. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1).

4.10 STANLEY RACING GOLDEN SERIES

HUNTERS HURDLE (2.25, 2m 20y) (12 runners)
1. STANLEY RACING (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 2. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 3. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 4. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 5. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 6. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 7. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 8. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 9. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 10. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 11. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 12. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1).

4.40 STANLEY RACING CLUB NOVICES CHASE

(2.25, 2m 20y) (4 runners)
1. STANLEY RACING (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 2. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 3. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 4. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1).

4.10 STANLEY RACING GOLDEN SERIES

HUNTERS HURDLE (2.25, 2m 20y) (12 runners)
1. STANLEY RACING (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 2. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 3. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 4. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 5. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 6. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 7. Stanley Racing (M. J. Preece, 3-1), 8. Stanley Racing (M. J

Pick your team, sit tight ... and hope for the best



THERE are many different approaches to Interactive Team Football. For some, the urge to transfer every week is irresistible. Others prefer a more sanguine approach, trusting in their original selections.

The transience of form and of health ensures that the former method wins out much more commonly, but it is pleasing to report a winner in the latter category today. Mr I. Bradbury, of Eastbourne, has not altered his ITF team since August, and is rewarded at last with the £250 weekly prize.

He was assisted largely by Kevin Gallacher's goalscoring burst. The Blackburn Rovers forward scored a hat-trick against Wimbledon on Saturday, and also found the back of the net against Nottingham Forest a week ago. Mr Bradbury's team, Day Dreamers, which scored 50 points, also had useful contributions from Dave Watson, of Everton, and Mark Bosnich, of Aston Villa.

Mr Bradbury's team is:

Goalkeeper
M Bosnich (Aston Villa)

Full backs
R Elliott (Newcastle)
G Neville (Manchester Utd)

Central defenders
D Watson (Everton)
D Wetherall (Leeds)

Midfield players
J Barnes (Liverpool)
L Bowyer (Leeds)
M Thomas (Liverpool)
D Wise (Chelsea)



Mark Hughes's goals for Chelsea this week boosted his tally in Interactive Team Football to 44 points



Strikers
A Cole (Manchester Utd)
K Gallacher (Blackburn)
Manager
J Jeffries (Hearts)

You can use the ITF transfer system to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or the Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club. If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01552-488 122.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1996-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tynes Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED			
Goalkeeper	4pts	Striker	2pts
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts	Scores goal	1pt
Saves penalty	1pt	All players	1pt
Full back/Central defender	3pts	Appearance†	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Scores hat-trick	6pts
Scores goal	3pts	Manager	3pts
Midfield player	1pt	Team wins	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	2pts	Team draws	1pt
Scores goal	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper	2pts	Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender	1pt	Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	1pt
All players	3pts	Manager	1pt
Sent off	3pts	Team loses	1pt
* must have played for 75 minutes in the match			
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match			



ENTER A NEW TEAM TODAY

THERE ARE BIG PRIZES TO BE WON EVERY WEEK AND EVERY MONTH

The ITF Manager of the Week and the Manager of the Month are up for grabs from now until the end of the season. Enter a team today for your chance to be a winner in 1997. The Manager of the Week or Month can be won by any team no matter where it is in the league, the prize for the Manager of the Week or Month simply goes to the person whose team scores the highest points in any one week or month.

The prize for the Manager of the Week is £250 cash, plus a £250 Sports Gift Voucher for an amateur football team in your community — as nominated by you. The Manager of the Month will receive £1,000 cash.

Enter today by following the instructions below.

Enter ITF by phone on 0891 405 011

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom, call 44 990 100 320

1. You must use a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone).

2. Choose 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.

3. Do not spend more than £35 million.

4. Do not choose more than two individuals (2 players or 1 player and 1 manager) from any one football club.

5. Once you have chosen your team, call the entry line, above, and follow these step-by-step instructions.

a) You must tap in (not speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your 11 chosen players and your manager.

b) You must speak the name of your team (no more than 16 characters) your name, address, with postcode, and daytime telephone number.

c) Finally, you will be given a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN) at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number and your chosen team as no postal notification will be sent.

NB. Any new team will only score points on future games.

0891 calls cost 50p per minute. Your call will cost approximately double if made from a pay phone. In the event of there being more than one Manager of the Week or Month, the winner will be chosen at random. All ITF rules apply, a copy of which will be made available on request.



See Sky Text, page 118

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 866 968

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom call 44 990 200 668.

You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selectors PIN, which you will have to tap in, not speak. Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players you are transferring.

You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call. If you have entered two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.

You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £35 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

Calls will be charged at 50p per minute. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Player out: Club Player code

Player in: Club

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
40610	IN	Paul Hughes (Chelsea)	£2.00m
52208	IN	Ian Moore (Nottingham Forest)	£2.00m
52501	MOVED	Pierre van Hoofdonk (from Celtic)	£7.00m
LOANED PLAYERS			
A Miller (Middlesbrough to West Bromwich, one week); P Evans (Leeds to Bradford, two weeks); J Lee (Nottingham Forest to Charlton, three weeks)			
Loan periods subject to fluctuation			

THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL GAME

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Sophie And Sam	(G Foster)	674	112	DJS 2	(D Senion)	582	182	The Instructors	(K Cunio)	582
2	Edmo Utd	(D Edmondson)	669	112	Agapanthus FC	(W Heslop)	582	182	Le Bouefaters	(J Roebuck)	582
3	James Boys Three	(M Jones)	667	112	Misfits	(R Lookyer)	582	182	Lynne's Lions	(L Horne)	582
4	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	663	115	Billy No Mates XI	(M Bremner)	581	182	Best Defence	(J Pregon)	582
4	Nobby 6	(J Brown)	663	115	Infinity George	(M Robson)	581	182	Powerage	(I Doughty)	582
6	Nobby	(J Brown)	660	115	Def Con 3	(M Peck)	581	187	Das Boot	(D A Sutton)	581
7	AB 4	(A Boyland)	659	118	Vad3	(K Howson)	580	187	John Hunt Taunton A	(J Hunt)	581
8	Turner's Earners 5	(P Turner)	658	118	Airstir	(I Fyfe)	580	189	EJK's Unleashed	(E J Kichen)	580
9	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	650	120	Star Chamber	(M MacMillan)	579	189	Shot On Sight 2	(P Goldstraw)	580
10	Brain's Team	(B Howes)	647	120	Fair Academicals	(A Kirkwood)	579	189	Bunnet Bhoys	(A Sharpe)	580
11	Jabberwocky	(P A Armas)	645	120	AJK	(K Hughes)	579	189	Lloyd's Barge	(D Goodwin)	580
12	Turner's Earners 3	(P Turner)	645	120	Styford	(A Burton)	579	189	Doppelgangerud	(J Whaling)	580
13	Nobby 32	(J Brown)	643	124	Lynton's Lions 7	(R Layton)	578	194	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swirles)	580
14	Pin Ups Two	(P Tusler)	642	124	RVK 3	(C Vancors)	578	194	Diplomatic Risk	(G Prichard)	580
15	Nobby 29	(J Brown)	641	124	Inter The Bin	(M Ward)	578	194	Sucharta	(N P Lewis)	580
16	Nonchalant AFC 3	(R J Ward)	639	124	NSI Monkstone	(J Staszkoewicz)	578	194	What Ford Splash	(D Oulbell)	580
16	Diggers	(R Cox)	639	124	Supersubs	(I Taylor)	578	198	Dave's First XI	(D Stone)	580
18	Bob's Boys 2	(R Calder)	637	129	Come On You Rocks	(L Clark)	577	198	Back In Bristol	(M Ward)	580
18	Nobby 21	(J Brown)	637	129	Man City Free Zone	(D Ingham)	577	198	Inter The Net	(J M Bartholomew)	580
20	John Hunt Taunton G	(J Hunt)	636	132	Mars FC	(M Baber)	576	198	St Bartholomew	(V Cox)	580
21	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	635	132	No Middle	(J B Portwood)	575	198	Daniels Seishans	(S Abbott)	580
22	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	634	133	End 2	(J Hagger)	575	204	Paradox Eagles	(C Hadfield)	580
23	Beeston Celtic	(B McGivern)	633	133	PJB Rangers	(P J Butler)	575	204	Caroline A	(A Luckhurst)	580
23	Nobby 22	(J Brown)	633	133	Top Banana	(E Kury)	575	204	Northern Lights	(C Wnght)	580
25	James Boys Eight	(M Jones)	628	133	Watership FC	(M Kirkwood)	575	204	Bob's Boys 6	(R Calder)	580
25	12 Angry Men	(D Cook)	628	133	Leesley's Legmen	(L Michaels)	575	208	Davies Unit 1	(A Papadopoulos)	580
25	Nobby 23	(J Brown)	628	139	Crooky Boys	(S Crook)	574	208	Peapodpoules Utd	(E O Gorman)	580
25	Icarus	(B Wells)	626	145	Cookie's Gnomers	(S Crook)	574	208	Rock Bottom	(J Swain)	580
25	Pardner Bilbao 3	(J Hamilton)	626	145	Inter Outers	(R Johnson)	574	213	Football Junkies	(J Mellings)	580
30	Turner's Earners 6	(P Turner)	625	145	Yahboysir	(G Davidson)	574	213	Scottish United	(S Goff)	580
31	Dour Rangers 3	(I Clayton)	624	145	Alice	(I Pigeon)	573	213	Red Star Storm	(P Mills)	580
31	Bladerunners	(P Walters)	622	145	Bob Hope And No Hope	(T Blythe)	573	213	Hammy's Heroes	(G Howard)	580
33	Where's Ray Gone?	(P Fromm)	622	148	Bugle Navvies	(D Banks)	572	213	Goff's Geezers II	(J Donaldson)	580
33	John Hunt Taunton F	(J Hunt)	622	148	Essey's 1st XI	(S Baldock)	571	213	JD 3	(J Dwyer)	580
35	Turner's Earners 1	(P Turner)	620	148	Top Banana	(M Bottomley)	570	219	Dwyer's Tiptons	(N J Lane)	580
36	Hunter's Mob	(B Gardiner)	617	149	Xpist Missiles	(M Jackson)	570	219	Jack's Nightmare	(J Fox)	580
37	Uni Boys Utd 1	(J Hunt)	617	151	Alancia FC	(A Stillano)	569	221	Nellie's Heroes	(I Fox)	580
37	John Hunt Taunton C	(J Hunt)	617	151	Purple Rain	(G Gohl)	569	221	4 4 2	(K Browne)	580
37	Nobby 5	(J Brown)	617	151	Caught Lucky	(C Wright)	569	221	Hisham's Haggis	(H A Rahim)	580
41	JJB Sports	(A Bates)	616	151	S Gill Taunton A	(S Gill)	569	221	Bumble Villa	(N Beo)	580
41	Nobby 14	(J Brown)	616	151	LFC Champs 96-97	(B Fazakerley)	569	221	Sooty's Puppets II	(E G Ryan)	580
42	Nobby 25	(J Brown)	615	156	Byzantine Bricks	(S Houghton)	568	221	Totted Two	(E Krsby)	580
42	Nobby 12	(J Brown)	615	156	Sam Shanks	(S Shankar)	568	221	Burg Hot	(G Watson)	580
44	Nobby's Ark	(G P Dolan)	614	156	Demolition Men	(J Murray)	568	221	Shoko Zoo	(P Roach)	580
44	Nobby 20	(J Brown)	614	156	Winn Fantasy Leaguers	(M Madden)	568	221	DRS Select XI 2	(D Swinburne)	580
46	BCFC 1998	(J Bithell)	612	156	Robzteam2	(P Preston)	568	221	T Miles	(T Miles)	580
48	James Boys Sky	(M Jones)	611	156	Foxy	(M Fox)	568	221	March Pass	(M McGovern)	580
48	Storm	(P Mills)	611	156	John Hunt Taunton B	(J Hunt)	568	221	C	(B Poole)	580
48	Joking	(P Fallan)	611	163	Triple Top Tan	(P Bailey)	567	232	Flying Pigs	(M Macmillan)	580
48	Blythe Spartans	(T Blythe)	611	163	Porcelain Dogs	(A Itison)	567	232	Peanuts Team 1	(S Pamham)	580
48	Nobby 7	(J Brown)	611	163	I Hate Alan Hansen	(V Cox)	567	232	Langaller Lads	(N Finch)	580
52	Bob's Boys 4	(R Calder)	610	168	Grimm's Army	(S Gray)	566	232	Skylark Sizzlers	(T Gordon)	580
53	Inter The Pub	(M Ward)	609	168	End Four	(E Cowen)	566	232	Dodd's Aces	(C Dodd)	580
54	Turner's Earners 4	(P Turner)	609	168	End Four	(G Wells)	566	237	Dimyose Moscow	(G Thomas)	580
55	James Boys One	(M Jones)	607	169	C U O K	(R Gohl)	565	237	Oc25-ITF Champ	(D Wilson)	580
55	Tur	(P Turner)	607	169	It's About Revenge C	(C Wright)	565	240	Porbus	(M Stadden)	580
57	Team C	(A Lone)	606	171	The Loggers	(M Roberts)	564	240	Rubella	(W Clarke)	580
57	Raj Is Back To Kill 5	(R Gohl)	606	171	Roberts-Team 1	(K Howson)	564	240	Charlie's Angles	(C J Yates)	580
57	ABC	(M Corless)	606	171	Vat1	(D Edbrookestein)	564	240	Graham's Bangers	(G Watson)	580
57	John Hunt Taunton E	(J Hunt)	606	174	Drax5	(P Patel)	563	240	Botak United 2	(J Pull)	580
62	Elsinore United	(P Lascor)	605	174	Patel One	(M Woodley)	563	240	Alapap	(C Strachan)	580
63	Teddy Three	(B Bear)	604	174	Basanti Boys	(R J Brown)	563	247	Dutch Courage	(R van Rullenbeek)	580
63	Thorn Footy FC	(M Moran)	604	174	Magflappers	(D Blair)	563	247	Cholm Chix 69	(L Stratby)	580
65	Scholes For Goals	(K Booth)	603	174	Old Cameronians	(J Pull)	563	247	Beam Up	(K Booth)	580
65	Set Against Cys	(S Shipley)	603	174	Grufton Willows	(D F King)	563	247	AC Confridge	(L Hoo)	580
65	Tulip's Tops	(I Doughty)	603	174	Holstenites		563				
65	Garforth Seahawks	(J Brown)	602	174	Botak United 1		563				
69	Nobby J	(M Ward)	601		Kingsbury Tn 1		563				
70	Inter The Stand		601				563				

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



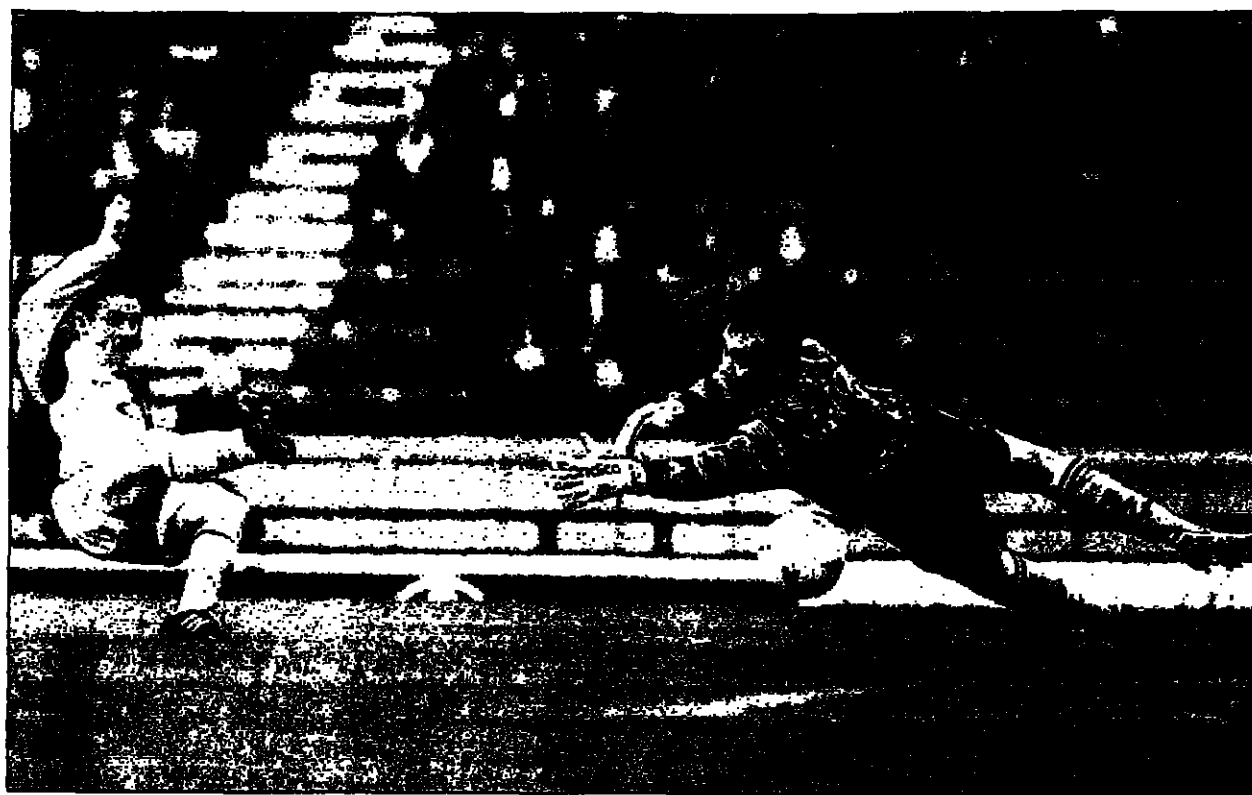
Call the ITF hotline on
0891 884 643
Outside UK: 44 990 100 343

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
70	Concrete Banana	(S Mingle)	601
72	Bad Time Boys	(R Crook)	600</

The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	OV
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	-1	-12	
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-14	
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	+33	
10202	V Sartran	Arsenal	1.50	0	0	
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	0	0	
10301	M Bealich	Aston Villa	0.75	0	+1	
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	3.50	+5	+19	
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+19	
10402	S Glyn	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-2	+5	
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	2.00	0	+4	
10502	S Kerr	Celtic	3.50	0	-1	
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	3.50	-5	+31	
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.50	0	+10	
10603	F Rodas	Chelsea	2.00	0	-27	
10701	S Ogrizovic	Chelsea	3.00	-3	-4	
10702	J Folan	Coventry City	1.50	-7	-26	
10801	M Taylor	Coventry City	0.50	0	0	
10802	R Hoult	Derby County	1.00	-1	-4	
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	1.00	0	-34	
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0	+0	
11001	I Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	+5	+43	
11002	P Southall	Everton	2.50	+5	-24	
11101	G Rousset	Everton	2.50	0	+4	
11102	J Leighton	Hibernian	2.00	+5	-12	
11103	D Lekovic	Hibernian	1.50	-1	-28	
11201	M Beaney	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	-43	
11202	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0	0	
11301	N Martyn	Leeds United	2.50	+4	+33	
11302	K Pickett	Leeds United	1.00	-5	-12	
11401	K Keller	Leicester City	1.00	0	-14	
11402	D James	Liverpool	5.00	-8	+26	
11501	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0	0	
11502	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	+5	+7	
11601	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0	+5	
11602	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-20	
11701	A Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-23	
11702	B Roberts	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+3	
11801	M Schwarzer	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+3	
11901	S Howie	Motherwell	2.00	-1	-7	
12001	S Hisslop	Newcastle United	1.50	-1	-30	
12002	P Smoek	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0	
12101	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-2	-42	
12102	A Fittis	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	-2	
12201	A Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	-50	
12202	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	5.00	-3	+29	
12301	M Clarke	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0	
12302	D Beasant	Southampton	1.00	0	-28	
12401	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0	+2	
12402	M Taylor	Southampton	1.00	+2	+2	
12501	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	-14	-40	
12502	A Cotton	Sunderland	1.00	0	+9	
12601	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	+5	-5	
12602	E Beardsley	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0	
12701	L Mladik	West Ham United	2.00	+2	-22	
12702	S Mouton	West Ham United	0.50	0	+5	
12801	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	0.50	+5	+7	
12802	P Head	Wimbledon	1.00	0	-1	



Gallacher's goals for Blackburn over the past seven days make him the most valuable player of the week

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	OV
30305	R Scimeca	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+24	
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	+34	
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	0	
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-3	
30404	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+2	
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	0	+31	
30502	M Mackay	Celtic	1.50	-3	+37	
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	2.50	-1	+19	
30504	B O'Neill	Celtic	3.00	0	+2	
30505	E Annoni	Celtic	3.00	-2	+4	
30601	M Daberry	Chelsea	2.50	0	+1	
30602	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	2.50	0	-29	
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	-1	-7	
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0	+3	
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	-1	+1	
30701	E Johnson	Coventry City	2.50	0	+2	
30702	L Dashi	Coventry City	2.00	0	+5	
30703	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	-4	-7	
30704	G Breen	Coventry City	1.50	-3	+1	
30705	A Evtushok	Coventry City	1.50	-1	+1	
30801	I Stimec	Derby County	2.50	0	-10	
30802	D Wassall	Derby County	1.00	0	0	
30803	P McGrath	Derby County	2.50	0	+1	
30804	J Laurence	Derby County	1.00	0	+12	
30805	M Carbone	Derby County	0.50	0	-4	
30901	S Pressley	Dundee United	1.00	+4	+55	
31001	M Miller	Dunfermline	0.75	0	-1	
31002	I Den Blom	Dunfermline	0.75	+4	+13	
31101	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	+4	+16	
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.50	+6	+15	
31103	C Short	Everton	2.00	+3	+10	
31201	M Peterson	Harts	1.00	+2	+25	
31202	P Ritchie	Harts	1.00	+3	+28	
31301	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	0	+4	
31302	G Welsh	Hibernian	0.75	-1	-9	
31303	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	0	-3	
31304	S Dennis	Hibernian	1.00	0	-19	
31401	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00	+8	+3	
31402	R Montgomery	Kilmarnock	0.75	+4	+1	
31501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	1.00	0	+2	
31502	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00	0	+24	
31503	L Radice	Leeds United	0.50	0	0	
31504	J Pemberton	Leeds United	2.00	+3	+25	
31505	R Molemar	Leeds United	1.00	0	+14	
31601	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.00	0	-21	
31602	J Watts	Leicester City	0.50	0	+7	
31603	P Karmark	Leicester City	1.00	0	+3	
31604	S Prior	Leicester City	1.50	-2	-10	
31605	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.50	0	+24	
31701	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	-3	+32	
31702	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0	-14	
31703	N Ruddock	Liverpool	1.00	-2	-28	
31704	D Matteo	Liverpool	1.00	-2	-28	
31705	B T Kwame	Liverpool	3.50	+3	+6	
31801	G Pullister	Manchester United	3.00	+4	+31	
31802	D May	Manchester United	3.00	+4	+31	
31803	R Johnson	Manchester United	2.50	+2	+23	
31804	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-1	
31901	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-12	
31902	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-10	
31903	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-4	
31904	S Fasta	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-7	
32001	B Metherell	Motherwell	1.00	0	-7	
32002	M van der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	0	+10	
32101	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.50	0	+18	
32102	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+7	
32103	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	+1	+17	
32201	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+7	
32202	S Chelton	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	-12	
32203	S Blatherwick	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	-5	
32301	D Craig	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	-5	
32302	G Mitchell	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	0	
32401	R Gough	Rangers	3.50	0	+57	
32402	A McKendrick	Rangers	3.00	+3	+32	
32403	J Bjorklund	Rangers	2.50	+3	+32	
32404	G Franks	Rangers	2.50	+3	+32	
32501	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	+15	
32502	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	-1	+34	
32503	B Lintgham	Sheffield Wednesday	0.25	0	0	
32601	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	-2	-18	
32602	A Neilson	Southampton	1.00	+4	+8	
32603	R Dryden	Southampton	0.50	0	-3	
32604	C Lundkvam	Southampton	1.50	0	-20	
32605	U van Gobel	Sunderland	1.00	-7	-12	
32701	A Melville	Sunderland	1.00	-3	-44	
32702	K Ball	Sunderland	0.50	-9	-11	
32703	R Ord	Sunderland	2.50	+4	+20	
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+4	+20	
32802	J Scallan	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	+9	+9	
32803	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+4	+17	
32804	G Mabbott	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0	
32805	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	-6	
32806	R Vega	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	0	-1	
32807	S Biliic	West Ham United	2.50	+3	+11	
32808	M Ripper	West Ham United	1.50	0	+8	
32901	S Potts	West Ham United	2.00	+2	-2	
32902	R Hall	West Ham United	1.50	0	0	
32903	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	0.50	+1	+1	
33001	A Reeves	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0	
33002	A Pearce	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0	
33003	G McAllister	Wimbledon	0.50	+1	+18	
33004	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25	0	0	

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	OV
40101	D Windass	Aberdeen	3.00	+2	+34	
40102	S Glass	Aberdeen	3.00	+1	+18	
40103	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.50	0	+7	
40104	I Krivokoz	Aberdeen	2.50	0	+28	
40105	T Tsvetanov	Aberdeen	0.50	0	+21	
40201	P Platen	Arsenal	4.50	+2	+30	
40202	P Merson	Arsenal	4.00	+5	+25	
40203	R Parlor	Arsenal	2.00	+1	+25	
40204	G Holder	Arsenal	1.50	0	0	
40205	I Selley	Arsenal	0.50	0	0	
40206	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.00	+1	+35	
40207	R Garde	Arsenal	2.00	0	+5	
40208	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.00	+4	+9	
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	4.00	+1	+27	
40302	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.50	+2	+45	
40303	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50	+2	+33	
40304	G Farrelly	Aston Villa	1.00	0	0	
40305	S Curic	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+21	
40401	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	+2	+37	
40402	L Bohinen	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+27	
40403	G Filtrout	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+2	+21	
40404	M McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+1	+13	
40405	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+2	+42	
40406	P Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+4	
40407	G Donis	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+16	

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	OV
42701	M Gray	Sunderland	2.50	+2	+36	
42702	S Agnew	Sunderland	1.50	0	+18	
42703	A Rae	Sunderland	1.50	+2	+13	
42704	P Bracewell	Sunderland	0.75	+2	+38	
42705	M Smith	Sunderland	1.00	0	+9	
42801	D Anderton	Tottenham Hotspur	5.50	+3	+17	
42802	R Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	0	+23	
42803	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	4.50	0	-35	
42804	J Doozel	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	+2	+4	
42805	A Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	+2	+36	
42806	R Rosenthal	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+3	
42807	A Nielsen	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+35	
42808	I Bishop	West Ham United	2.00	+2	+30	
42809	M Hughes	West Ham United	2.00	+1	+34	
42810	D Williamson	West Ham United	1.50	0	+17	
42811	S Leonardis	West Ham United	1.50	+2	+18	
43001	R Earle	Wimbledon	0.50	+1	+52	
43002	O Leonhardsson	Wimbledon	2.50	+1	+39	
43003	M Gayle	Wimbledon	2.00	+1	+59	
43004	V Jones	Wimbledon	1.50	+1	+33	
43005	N Ardley	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+45	
43006	S Castledine	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+1	
43007	P Fear	Wimbledon	0.25	0	+6	

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	OV
50101	S Booth	Aberdeen	4.50	0	+11	
50102	D Shearer	Aberdeen	3.00	0	+6	
50103	W Dods	Aberdeen	5.00	0	+33	
50201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.00	0	+57	
50202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	7.00	0	+39	
50203	C Kilmorye	Arsenal	0.50	0	0	
50206	N Anelka	Arsenal	3.00	0	0	
50302	D Yorke	Aston Villa	7.50	+1	+65	
50303	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	5.00	0	+33	
50303	T Johnson	Aston Villa	4.00	0	+14	
50304	J Joachim	Aston Villa	2.00	+1	+9	
50402	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+16	+50	
50404	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+38	
50405	P Fenton	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+3	0	
50407	N Rudderdsson	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	0	
50407	P Pedersen	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+2	+6	
50501	P van Hoojdonk	Celtic	7.00	+1	+44	
50502	J Cadete	Celtic	6.00	+2	+74	
50601	G Vialli	Chelsea	5.00	+3	+39	
50602	M Hughes	Chelsea	4.00	+8	+44	
50603	M Stein	Chelsea	0.50	0	0	
50606	G Zola	Chelsea	5.00	+4	+41	
50701	N Whelan	Coventry City	6.00	0	+32	
50702	D Dublin	Coventry City	5.00	-1	+32	
50703	P Ndlovu	Coventry City	3.00	0	+4	
52105	D Huckerby	Coventry City	0.50	+1	+33	
50801	D Sturmidge	Derby County	3.00	0	+37	
50802	M Abubakadi	Derby County	0	+7	0	
50803	D Ward	Derby County	2.00	+1	+26	
50804	R Williams	Derby County	1.00	0	+18	
50903	K Olafsson	Dundee United	3.00	+6	+15	
51001	A Moore	Dunfermline	2.00	0	+12	
51002	S Petrie	Dunfermline	2.00	-2	+26	
51101	D Ferguson	Everton	6.00	+1	+39	
51301	M Samby	Everton	4.00	+4	+40	
51102	G Smith	Everton	0.50	+1	+34	
51104	P Rideout	Everton	2.00	0	+3	
51105	M Branch	Everton	1.50	+1	+9	
51201	J Robertson	Hearts	3.50	+1	+47	
51202	C Cameron	Hearts	3.50	+1	+46	
51203	D Beckford	Hearts	0.50	0	+4	
51301	P Wright	Hibernian	3.00	+2	+23	
51302	D Johnston	Hibernian	1.00	+7	0	
51401	P Kim	Kilmarnock	3.00	+6	+53	
51501	A Yeboah	Leeds United	7.00	+2	+4	
51502	I Rush	Leeds United	3.50	+2	+31	
51504	B Deane	Leeds United	2.00	+2	+31	
51601	S Claridge	Liverpool	2.50	+1	+45	
51602	E Heskey	Liverpool	2.00	+3	+34	
51603	M Robins	Liverpool	0.75	+4	+3	
51604	M Marshall	Liverpool	0.75	+3	+39	
51605	S Guppy	Liverpool	2.00	+1	+2	
51701	R Fowler	Liverpool	9.00	+8	+63	
51702	S Collymore	Liverpool	0.80	0	+45	
51801	E Cantona	Manchester United	8.50	+1	+39	
51802	P Scholes	Manchester United	5.00	0	+17	
51803	A Cole	Manchester United	4.50	+2	+15	
51901	F Salskjaer	Middlesbrough	3.00	+1	+33	
51905	F Ravanelli	Middlesbrough	5.00	+1	+68	
51908	M Beck	Middlesbrough	2.50	+3	+26	
52001	T Coyne	Motherwell	2.00	+1	+44	
50902	O Coyle	Motherwell	2.00	0	+27	
52002	D Arnott	Motherwell	1.50	0	+17	
50401	A Shearer	Newcastle United	1.00	0	+70	
52101	L Ferdinand	Newcastle United	7.50	+5	+50	
52102	S Dowie	Newcastle United	6.50	+4	+12	
52103	P Beardsley	Newcastle United	5.00	+3	+32	
52201	D Saunders	Nottingham Forest	3.50	+2	+40	
52202	B Roy	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+12	
52203	P McGregor	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	0	
52204	K Campbell	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	+33	
52205	J Lee	Nottingham Forest	1.50	+1	0	
52206	N Chan	Nottingham Forest	0.50	0	0	
52207	A Sizen	Nottingham Forest	0.50	0	+1	
52301	P Duffield	Raith Rovers	2.00	+1	+26	
52401	G Durie	Rangers	6.00	+1	+10	
52402	E Andersen	Rangers	5.00	0	+35	
52403	A McCosker	Rangers	5.00	0	+37	
52405	P van Vossen	Rangers	0.50	0	0	
52405	S Rosenthal	Rangers	4.00	0	+3	
52501	D Hirst	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	+3	+23	
52502	A Booth	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	+1	+51	
52504	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+2	+32	
52505	O Donaldson	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0	
52506	R Humphreys	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	+1	+19	
52601	S Tiesler	Southampton	7.50	+2	+49	
52605	E Ostenstad	Southampton	2.00	+2	+42	
52606	M Evans	Southampton	0.75	+2	+2	
52701	P Stewart	Sunderland	1.00	+3	+8	
52702	C Russell	Sunderland	1.00	+1	+20	
52703	D Kelly	Sunderland	1.00	+1	+20	
52704	S Lavery	Sunderland	0.50	0	+2	
52705	M Bridges	Sunderland	0.50	+2	+15	
52708	N Quinn	Sunderland	3.00	0	+7	
52801	E Sheringham	Tottenham Hotspur	8.00	+1	+27	
52802	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	7.00	0	+19	
52803	R Allen	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	+5	
52804	T Hyslop	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	+1	+36	
52903	J Harrison	West Ham United	3.50	+1	+15	
52903	I Dowie	West Ham United	2.00	+1	+15	
52104	P Kildson	West Ham United	1.50	+6	+12	
53001	D Holdsworth	Wimbledon	3.00	0	+17	
53002	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	3.00	+2	+48	
53003	J Newman	Wimbledon	0.50	0	0	
53004	J Eueli	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0	
53005	A Clarke	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+7	
53006	M Harford	Wimbledon	0.50	+1	+2	

Liverpool seek to stem Norwegian flow

Norway has about one human being to every 14 in England. It can count on daylight hours in which to practise football in roughly similar proportions. Yet, consider the effect that this sparsely-populated Scandinavian country has on our national game.

Manchester United expect to progress to the semi-finals of the European Cup tomorrow, almost certainly with Ole Gunnar Solskjær in attack, and perhaps with Ronnie Johnsen in defence or midfield. Liverpool will reach the same stage of the Cup Winners' Cup on Thursday, with the help of their most consistent player, Stig Inge Bjørnebye, if they can overcome the Norwegian resistance of SK Brann. Indeed, one of Liverpool's worries is that their reliable defender, Bjørn Tore Kvarme, having helped Rosenborg to progress to the quarter-finals at the expense of AC Milan, is cup-tied.

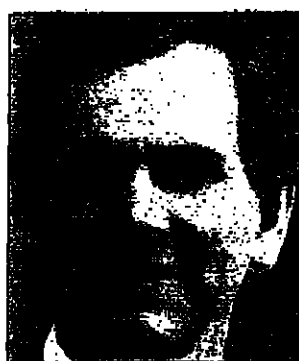
So, the two clubs of England in whom European hopes are invested, have clear Norwegian connections. Newcastle United, who play in the Uefa Cup in Monte Carlo tonight, have no Norwegian; perhaps that is one of their failings.

In these players, and other talented exports such as Lars Bohinen, Oyvind Leonhardsen, Steffen Iversen, Erlend Johnsen and Alf Inge Haaland, Norway has the nucleus of a considerable international side playing in the FA Carling Premiership.

Yet, the Norwegians also continue to challenge the practices of the sporting business. The Brann team at Anfield on Thursday night will be accompanied by a couple of sulking senior professionals. Jan Ove Pedersen would have been in their midfield, Birkir Kristinsson, an Icelandic goalkeeper, would have been their last line of defence. But they claim that mismanagement in the club's administration offices has cost them not only the chance of a lifetime to play Liverpool, but potentially millions in what they call "the shopping window of the century for Brann players".

Pedersen, or rather his solicitor, is claiming £100,000 in damages against his own club. Kristinsson wants £60,000. Why? Because the club failed to re-register their contracts in time for the pair to oppose Liverpool in this two-legged quarter-

ROB HUGHES



Overseas View

final. The club has tacitly admitted culpability by offering the players £2,500 apiece, a sum rejected as derisory. Their colleagues, who stand at 1-1 after the first leg in Norway, will collect £5,000 per man if they defeat Liverpool and £30,000 each should they go all the way in the Cup Winners' Cup.

Moreover, their centre forward,

Tor Andre Flo, the younger brother of Jostein Flo, has realistic dreams of scoring at Anfield, and of persuading somebody in England to add him to the live-in Norwegians here. Flo, whose agent has received a £150,000-per-year offer for Flo to stay at Brann, believes he can make ten times that in England and is mindful of Liverpool's likely search for a replacement for the £8.5 million misfit, Stan Collymore, this summer.

In terms of fitness, in terms of desire to succeed and of reliability of temperament, Flo, like many of his countrymen, does not doubt that the English league is his natural habitat. It is not the feel of English money alone that they come for — it is the roar of the English crowds... crowds that increasingly have Scandinavian participation. Liverpool, for example, has a supporters' club branch in Norway that numbers 17,000, some of whom are season ticket-holders.

They travel in the spirit of Bjørge Lillelien, the now deceased broadcaster, who in 1981 greeted Norway's 2-1 defeat of England in the World Cup with the unforgettable line: "Sir Winston Churchill, Queen Elizabeth, Lord Nelson, Clement Attlee, Lord

Beaverbrook... Maggie Thatcher, your boys took a hell of a beating!"

They did, and it happened again in 1993 when the Norwegians eliminated Graham Taylor's England from the World Cup. No fewer than seven of that Norwegian 11 came to make their fortunes with English clubs, with Bjørnebye, Leonhardsen and Bohinen outstanding performers, week in, week out.

Of course, this country of 4.2 million people was proficient at the game long before England became their victims. A bronze medal at the 1936 Olympic Games is testimony to that. Neither is it the case that Norwegians become attracted to our game because they find it so easy. Roger Dahl, who helps to run the Liverpool Supporters' Club in Scandinavia, became addicted to Liverpool in 1974 when, as a boy, he marvelled at the team containing Kevin Keegan as it demolished Stromsgodet Drammen 11-0 in the Cup Winners' Cup at Anfield.

An omen? A similar landslide on Thursday would help to redress the imbalance of personnel and money that has come singularly from Norway ever since.

FOOTBALL

Waddle returns to Premiership with Sunderland

BY RICHARD HOBSON AND RUSSELL KEMPSON

FOUR days later and around 170 miles further north than he expected, Chris Waddle returned to the FA Carling Premiership yesterday when he joined Sunderland for £75,000 after Bradford City reluctantly acknowledged that he would not play for them again. Ironically, he will make his debut on Saturday against Nottingham Forest, the club he thought he was joining last Thursday.

Waddle is with the BBC's commentary team in Monte Carlo for the Uefa Cup quarter-final, second-leg tie between Newcastle United and AS Monaco. He agreed terms with Sunderland before his departure. His contract is for the remaining seven games of the season only, though Waddle will be happy to extend his stay if Sunderland remain in the Premiership. They have promised to play a match at Bradford's Pulse Stadium during the summer as part of the deal.

Geoffrey Richmond, the Bradford chairman, insisted on Saturday that Waddle would see out his contract with the Nationwide League first division club, which would have expired at the end of the season. The player believed that Bradford had reneged on a verbal agreement allowing him to leave on a free transfer if a Premiership club expressed an interest.

Distraught that his move to Forest had fallen through, he pulled out of the squad for the game against Reading on Saturday, citing illness, and Richmond changed his stance as the reality of the situation dawned. "If a player does not want to play then you cannot force him, whether he is under contract or not," Richmond said yesterday.

Richmond denied that his approach had changed now that a club has come in with a cash offer. Dave Bassett, the Forest general manager, said that he was only interested in

signing Waddle on a free transfer. Waddle, 36, is a short-term signing but Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, is desperate for somebody who can make an immediate impact after the 6-2 defeat against Chelsea on Sunday. His side are sixth from bottom of the Premiership, just three points away from the relegation zone.

Police are investigating allegations from Southampton supporters that Patrick Vieira, the Arsenal midfielder player, made obscene gestures towards them during Arsenal's 2-0 win at The Dell on Saturday. "We received half a dozen complaints from fans after the match," Dave Atwell, a Hampshire police spokesman, said. Alexander Manninger, the Austria Under-21 and Casino Graz goalkeeper, arrived in London yesterday to spend two days on trial with Arsenal. Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, is due to talk with Peter Svetits, his Casino Graz counterpart, about a possible £1 million move for the highly rated 19-year-old.

The Football Association will not be taking action over crowd trouble during the Bristol derby on Sunday, which Bristol City won 2-1. "We are satisfied it was an isolated incident which was promptly dealt with," Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said.

Steffen Iversen, the Tottenham Hotspur and Norway Under-21 striker, will learn today if his season is over. He damaged knee ligaments in the 1-0 win against Leeds United on Saturday and was due to have an X-ray on the injury last night.

Women's contest heats up



Irina Slutskaya, of Russia, the European title-holder, throws herself into her routine during the qualifying round at the world figure skating championships in Lausanne, Switzerland. Slutskaya qualified in third place in her group but it was the other group that created the excitement as it was topped by Tara Lipinski, of

the United States, who thus improved her chances of becoming, at 14 years and nine months, the youngest women's champion. Sonja Henie, of Norway, was a month older when she won her first title in 1927. Lipinski, from Sugarland, Texas, who stands at 4ft 8in, finished fifteenth in the championships last year.

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'LIVE' U.E.F.A. CUP ACTION
8/11 MONACO 13/5 DRAW NEWCASTLE 11/4
Stade Louis II, Kick-off 7.45pm. Live on BBC TV.

CORRECT SCORE

5/1 MONACO 1-0	20/1 DRAW	2-2
13/2 MONACO 2-0	7/1 NEWCASTLE 1-0	
7/1 MONACO 2-1	14/1 NEWCASTLE 2-0	
11/2 DRAW	12/1 NEWCASTLE 2-1	

Other scores on request.

FIRST GOALSCORER

4/1 ANDERSON (M)	9/1 BEARDSLEY (N)
12/1 FERDINAND (M)	12/1 LEE (M)
7/1 ASPRILLA (M)	16/1 COLLINS (M)
8/1 GRASSI (M)	16/1 GINOLA (M)

Own goals do not count. Other players on request. Above bets, extra time does not count.

LATEST ODDS ON WILLIAM HILL TV TEXT - Texted on 094 5691502000

WILLIAM HILL

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday March 22		15 P Vale v Sarson		32 Fulham v Hartlepool	1
Coupon No feature forecast		16 QPR v Portsmouth		33 Hull v Cardiff	1
FA PREMIERSHIP		17 Reading v Ipswich		34 Leyton Q v Lincoln	1
1 Blackburn v Villa		18 Southampton v Oxford		35 Mansfield v Northampton	2
2 Coventry v W Ham		19 W Bham v Charlton		36 Scarborough v Exeter	2
3 Derby v Tottenham		20 Blackpool v Bristol C		37 Swansea v Darlington	1
4 Everton v Man Utd		21 Bournemouth v York		38 Torquay v Southend	2
5 Middlesbrough v Chelsea		22 Burn v Chesterfield		39 Virgin v Barnet	1
6 Sheffield Wed v Leeds		23 Crewe v Peterborough		SCOTTISH PREMIER	
7 Sunderland v Nottm F		24 Colchester v Wycombe		1 Dundee Utd v Raith	
8 Souths v Leicester		25 Macclesfield v Walsley		2 Dunfermline v Celtic	
9 Sunderland v Nottm F		26 Notts Co v Blackpool		3 Aberdeen v Aberdeen	
10 Bradford v Wolves		27 Plymouth v Swindon		43 Motherwell v Hearts	
11 Gillingham v Walsley		28 Shrewsbury v Rocham		44 Rangers v Hibernian	
12 Huddersfield v Barnsley		29 Walsley v Barnsley		SCOTTISH FIRST	
13 Man City v Stoke		30 Brighton v Cardiff		45 Clydebank v Dundee	
14 Norwich v Bolton		31 Cambridge v Chester		46 Falkirk v East Fife	
15 P Vale v Sarson		32 Fulham v Hartlepool		47 Partick v G Hibernian	
16 QPR v Portsmouth		33 Hull v Cardiff		48 St Johnstone v Stirling	
17 Reading v Ipswich		34 Leyton Q v Lincoln		49 St Mirren v Arbroath	
18 Southampton v Oxford		35 Mansfield v Northampton		50 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
19 W Bham v Charlton		36 Scarborough v Exeter		51 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
20 Blackpool v Bristol C		37 Swansea v Darlington		52 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
21 Bournemouth v York		38 Torquay v Southend		53 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
22 Burn v Chesterfield		39 Virgin v Barnet		54 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
23 Crewe v Peterborough		SCOTTISH PREMIER		55 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
24 Colchester v Wycombe		1 Dundee Utd v Raith		56 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
25 Macclesfield v Walsley		2 Dunfermline v Celtic		57 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
26 Notts Co v Blackpool		3 Aberdeen v Aberdeen		58 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
27 Plymouth v Swindon		43 Motherwell v Hearts		59 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
28 Shrewsbury v Rocham		44 Rangers v Hibernian		60 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
29 Walsley v Barnsley		SCOTTISH FIRST		61 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
30 Brighton v Cardiff		45 Clydebank v Dundee		62 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
31 Cambridge v Chester		46 Falkirk v East Fife		63 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
32 Fulham v Hartlepool		47 Partick v G Hibernian		64 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
33 Hull v Cardiff		48 St Johnstone v Stirling		65 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
34 Leyton Q v Lincoln		49 St Mirren v Arbroath		66 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
35 Mansfield v Northampton		50 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		67 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
36 Scarborough v Exeter		51 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		68 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
37 Swansea v Darlington		52 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		69 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
38 Torquay v Southend		53 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		70 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
39 Virgin v Barnet		54 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		71 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
40 Dundee Utd v Raith		55 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		72 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
41 Dunfermline v Celtic		56 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		73 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
42 Dunfermline v Celtic		57 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		74 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
43 Motherwell v Hearts		58 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		75 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
44 Rangers v Hibernian		59 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		76 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
45 Clydebank v Dundee		60 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		77 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
46 Falkirk v East Fife		61 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		78 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
47 Partick v G Hibernian		62 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		79 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
48 St Johnstone v Stirling		63 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		80 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
49 St Mirren v Arbroath		64 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		81 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
50 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		65 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		82 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
51 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		66 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		83 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
52 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		67 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		84 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
53 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		68 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		85 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
54 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		69 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		86 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
55 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		70 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		87 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
56 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		71 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		88 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
57 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		72 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		89 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
58 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		73 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		90 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
59 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		74 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		91 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
60 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		75 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		92 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
61 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		76 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		93 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
62 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		77 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		94 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
63 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		78 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		95 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
64 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		79 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		96 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
65 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		80 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		97 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
66 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		81 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		98 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
67 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		82 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		99 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	
68 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		83 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers		100 Stirling Albion v Forth Wanderers	

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 52

CABRE

(a) In aeronautics, an aeroplane flying tail-down. From the French *cabré*, of a horse, capering, rearing on its hind legs. 1910: "I was alarmed lest my biped should suddenly do a cabré (fall backwards) if I kept her dimbling."

CERUMEN

(c) The yellow wax-like secretion in the external canal of the ear. From the Latin *cera* wax. Greek *keratomenos* formed of wax. 1741: "The cerumen of the ears is of a watery consistence."

CERUSE

(c) A name for white lead, a mixture or compound of carbonate and hydrate of lead. Largely used as a white paint, formerly also in medicine for ointments. Especially as a paint or cosmetic for the skin. Possibly from the Greek *keratissa* a contraction for waxy.

CERVELAT

(a) A kind of short, thick sausage. Hence applied to a musical instrument, a short reed instrument, resembling the bassoon in tone. The Old French word.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rxf1! Qx2 2 Bxe6! Kx8 3 Bxg7! Kxg7 4 Qf7! Kx8 5 Qf6 checkmate

□ Vince Wright

RADIO CHOICE

On the banks of Ole Miss'

Novel America. Radio 4 (FM only). 10.00am.

Writers to Radio 4's *Feedback* have been complaining for several weeks that the BBC is obsessed with the US. I think this is a slight exaggeration and I am mystified as to why these complaints arise now; the BBC has always had a strong interest in matters American, for the simple reason that the world's largest economy (and its largest cultural exporter) is bound to attract more interest than, say, Belgium. The important thing is quality and this series, in which Martin Wainwright has been looking at America from the perspective of four novels, is outstanding. Today he discovers what became of Tom Sawyer in an evocative journey to the banks of the Mississippi.

The Curves of Clio. Radio 3. 8.00pm.

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The third episode of Kavanagh QC (ITV) took on war crimes, and was again rather good. Frederick Treves was cast as a retired Polish doctor in England accused of conducting frightful experiments at Dachau. Preparing his prosecution case with history books, John Thaw grieved for humanity a lot, wearily pinching the bridge of his nose and shaking his locks. There was never much doubt of Treves's guilt: there was just trouble proving it.

The Internet cropped up again, with Kavanagh's teenage son downloading video-clips and watching them aghast in the dark. Terribly bad for the eyes, that.

downloading video-clips and watching them aghast in the dark. Terribly bad for the eyes, that.

5.00am Sesame Street (33079) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (38437) 9.00 Bewitched (t) (T) (44925)

9.30 Schools (598925) Eureka! Ancient Egypt (t) 9.45 Stop Look Listen (T) 10.00 Fairways Farm 10.10 Robert Burns 10.35 How We Used to Live (T) 10.45 Ques! (T) 11.00 Science in Focus. Energy and Sound (T) 11.20 Stage One. Materials We Need Plastic (T) 11.37 Lost Animals 11.45 First Edition

12.00 House to House Political magazine (54789) 12.30pm Baby It's You (3/6) (t) (T) (84031) 1.00 Ellen (T) (33316) 1.30 The City's Balcony. The famous Verona balcony (48630695)

1.35 Wee Willie Winkie (1937, b/w) with Shirley Temple, Victor McLaglen and C. Aubrey Smith. A fantasy adventure, adapted from the book by Rudyard Kipling, directed by John Ford (T) (19168215)

3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (673) 4.00 Fifteen-To-One (T) (708) 4.30 Countdown (T) (692) 5.00 Ricki Lake (T) (1234) 5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (544)


5.00 Friends A power failure leaves Chandler trapped in a bank with only a gorgeous model for company (t) (T) (888708)

5.25 Ant and Dec Unrumped with guests Davina McCall, Neil Hannon, C.P. Gregan and Sonia (843499)

5.55 Fresh Pop (799499)

6.00 Channel 4 News (T) (321383)

7.55 Black Holes of Science Professor Richard Gregory on why we don't know how glue works (532925)



The great crested grabe (8pm)

8.00 Wild Britain: Dancers on Still Waters Charting the courtship of the great crested grebe (T) (2/6) (7418)

8.30 Brookside Bel tries to persuade Ollie not to give up on his family (T) (6925)

9.00 Witness: Loss of Innocence A look at investigations into child abuse (T) (5147)

9.00 My Breast (1994) Meredith Baxter as the writer Joyce Wadler who discovers that she has breast cancer. Directed by Betty Thomas (T) (523703)

9.45 Film Night The documentary film-maker Errol Morris (315505)

12.25am Pick Up on South Street (1963, b/w) with Richard Widmark and Jean Peters A pickpocket becomes unwittingly involved in a Cold War plot after stealing a wallet.

1.45 White Rabbits Award-winning short about a conjuror (67448838)

CHALLENGE TV

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